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Juristat

Drug-related offences in Canada, 2013

by Adam Cotter, Jacob Greenland, and Maisie Karam
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. not available for any reference period
.. not available for a specific reference period
... not applicable
0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Drug-related offences in Canada, 2013: highlights

- Since peaking in 1991, the police-reported crime rate has decreased by half (-50%), while the police-reported rate of drug offences has increased 52% over the same period. Police reported about 109,000 *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (*CDSA*) offences in 2013, representing approximately 5% of all incidents reported by police.
- Two-thirds (67%) of all police-reported drug offences in 2013 involved cannabis. In particular, cannabis possession accounted for more than half (54%) of all police-reported drug crime.
- The next most common type of police-reported drug offence involved cocaine (16%), followed by methamphetamines (crystal meth) (4%), heroin (1%), and ecstasy (less than 1%). The remainder (11%) involved another type of substance banned under the *CDSA*, such as barbiturates, LSD, or "date rape" drugs.
- British Columbia recorded the highest provincial rate of drug crime in 2013. This has been the case each year since 1982, with the exception of 2012, when Saskatchewan had the highest provincial rate.
- About one-quarter (26%) of all police-reported drug crime is cleared by departmental discretion (i.e., a warning or referral to a community-based program rather than a charge), a considerably higher proportion than crime in general (8%). More than four in ten (41%) of all cleared cannabis offences were cleared through departmental discretion, while 17% of all other cleared drug offences were cleared by discretion.
- The rate of persons accused of police-reported drug offences was highest for the 18 to 24-year-old age group (1,176 per 100,000 population), followed by youth (ages 12 to 17) (741 per 100,000).
- In a four-year sample of completed cases that involved at least one drug charge and that were linked to a police-reported incident, about half (55%) of all adult criminal court cases and three-quarters (77%) of youth court cases involved cannabis.
- In about half of all completed adult criminal and youth court cases that involved offences related to cannabis, the cannabis charge was the only violation. Cases involving drugs other than cannabis had a single charge in about one-quarter of cases.
- In adult criminal court, completed cases that include charges related to drugs take longer to complete than non-drug-related cases, with cases involving cannabis requiring the shortest median case length among drug-related case (105 days).
- Cases that included charges related to cannabis completed in adult criminal court were more commonly stayed or withdrawn (55%) than cases involving other types of drugs (38%).
- Of drug-related cases in completed in adult criminal court that resulted in findings of guilt, about one in three involved a sentence of custody. Cases related to drug supply involved custody about twice as frequently as cases related to drug possession, though custody was less often imposed in cases involving cannabis.

Drug-related offences in Canada, 2013

by Adam Cotter, Jacob Greenland, and Maisie Karam

Research has linked illicit drugs to crime in a number of ways, including the involvement of organized crime in the supply and distribution of illegal substances (Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2010; Canadian Border Services Agency 2014), the social disorganization that can be associated with drug abuse (International Narcotics Control Board 2011), and individuals who commit crime while under the influence of illegal drugs or for the purposes of acquiring illegal drugs (Bennett, Holloway & Farrington 2008; International Narcotics Control Board 2003; Pernanen et al. 2002). The relationship between drugs and crime is also reflected in Canada's National Anti-Drug Strategy, which includes a law enforcement component along with goals of prevention and treatment (Collin 2006; Department of Justice 2012). Additionally, controlled drugs and substances account for nearly half (43%) of all seizures made at Canadian borders (Canadian Border Services Agency 2012). Furthermore, debates continue in Canada and elsewhere on the issue of legalization or decriminalization of some illegal substances (Collin 2006).

The recent legalization or decriminalization of cannabis elsewhere, including some U.S. states, has also contributed to ongoing debates around this issue in Canada. Self-reported surveys indicate that Canadians, both adult and youth, have some of the higher rates of cannabis use in the world (Duff et al. 2011; UNICEF 2013). Public opinion polls suggest that the majority of Canadians support the legalization or decriminalization of cannabis (Forum Research 2012), and Canadian youth tend to view cannabis as less harmful than other illegal substances (Porath-Waller et al. 2013).

Data on the types of drugs most frequently involved in police-reported offences, the characteristics of persons involved in the drug-related criminal incidents, and the outcomes of drug-related cases heard in Canada's criminal courts can provide valuable information about the nature of drug-related crime in Canada. Drug-related enforcement can require considerable police, court, and criminal justice resources. This is particularly important as law enforcement is one component of Canada's federal drug strategy.

This *Juristat* article examines drug-related offences in Canada in two sections. In the first section, data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey is used to examine short- and long-term trends in police-reported drug offences in Canada for six categories of drug: cannabis (marijuana), cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine (crystal meth), methylenedioxyamphetamine (ecstasy), and an "other" category comprising all other substances listed in Canada's *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (*CDSA*).[1] Trends at the provincial, territorial and census metropolitan area levels are also explored. In the second section, linked data from the UCR and the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) is used to explore court case characteristics, sentencing outcomes, and key indicators of cases involving at least one drug-related charge in Canada's adult criminal and youth courts.

It is important to note that trends in drug-related offences over time and between jurisdictions may be affected by differences in available resources, enforcement priorities, and enforcement practices within and between jurisdictions.

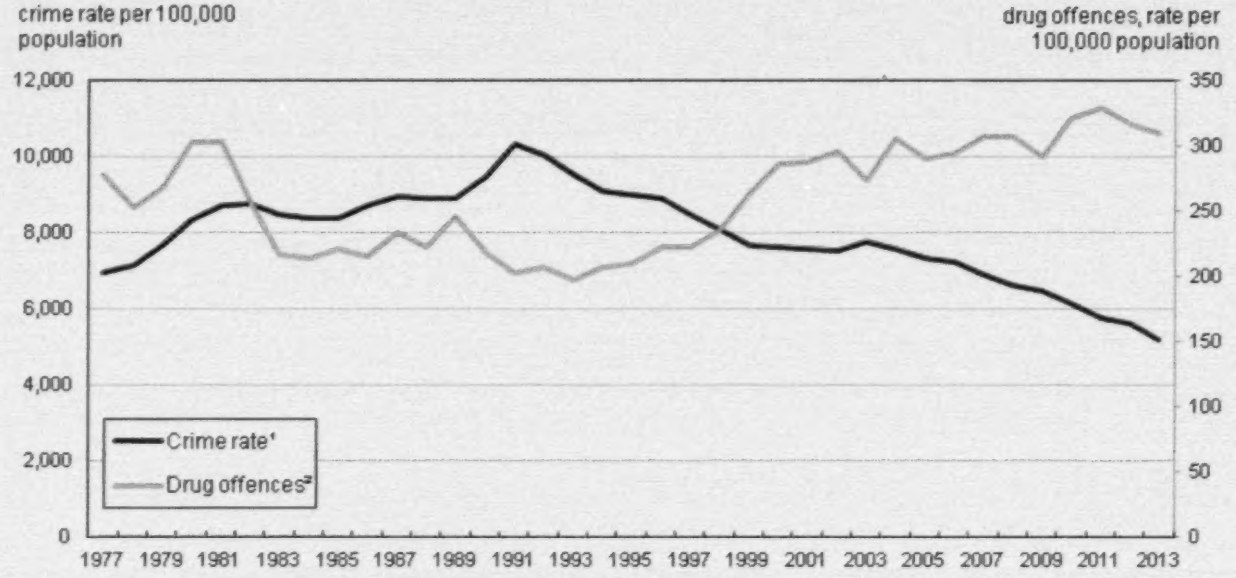
Section I: Police-reported drug offences

Police-reported drug offences decline in 2013, but remain higher than in past years

Of the nearly 2.1 million incidents[2] reported by police in 2013, 5% involved an offence against the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (*CDSA*)[3] as the most serious violation.[4] In other words, one in every twenty incidents reported by police was primarily drug-related.

The rate of police-reported drug offences has generally been increasing since the early 1990s, in contrast to the trend in the overall police-reported crime rate (Chart 1). Since peaking in 1991, the police-reported crime rate[5] has decreased by half (-50%). Over the same period, the rate of police-reported drug offences has increased 52%.

Chart 1
Police-reported drug offences and police-reported crime rate, Canada, 1977 to 2013



1. Includes all police-reported *Criminal Code* (excluding traffic) violations.
2. Includes possession, trafficking, import/export, and production of cannabis, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, ecstasy, precursors and equipment, and other controlled drugs and substances.

Note: Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with minor offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some minor offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations. Data for specific types of crime are available, in most cases, from 1977. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Police reported approximately 109,000 *CDSA* violations in 2013, about 1,000 fewer than in 2012. As a result, the rate of police-reported drug offences decreased 2% from 2012, to 310 per 100,000 population. Despite the decline, the rate of police-reported drug offences was 13% higher in 2013 than it was a decade earlier in 2003 (Table 1). In total, about seven in ten (71%) police-reported drug offences in 2013 involved possession.

The differing trends in the rate of police-reported crime and police-reported drug offences may be related to differences in enforcement strategies, operational practices and priorities, and available resources across jurisdictions and over time, particularly in the case of drug-related crime. Targeting certain types of offences or offenders may lead to more identification of drug-related incidents by police, rather than necessarily representing an increase in the number of drug-related incidents occurring (Dauvergne 2009). Likewise, declines in other types of crime may allow police to focus more attention and resources on drug-related crime.

Text box 1
Canadians' use of illicit drugs

Compared to other illegal drugs and substances, cannabis use is more likely to be reported by Canadians.

Self-reported data from the Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs Survey (CTADS 2015) indicate that about 11% of Canadians aged 15 and over reported having used cannabis in 2013, with those age 15 to 19 (22%) or 20 to 24 (26%) reporting higher rates of use than those over 25 (8%). Males (14%) reported a higher prevalence of past-year use than females (7%). About one-third (34%) of Canadians reported having used cannabis at least once in their lifetime.

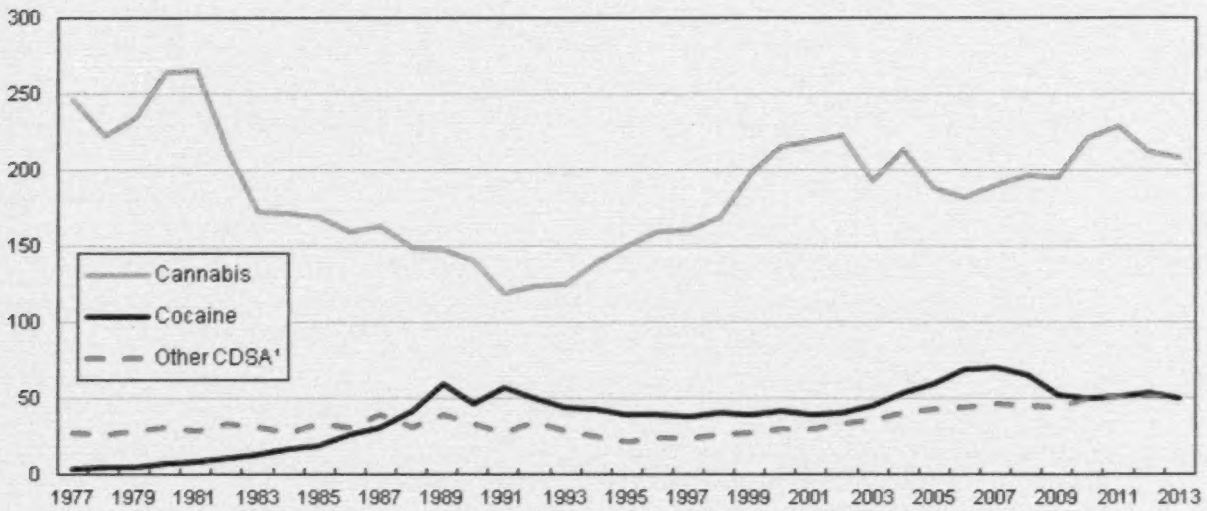
In addition, 2% of Canadians reported having used an illicit drug other than cannabis (i.e., cocaine or crack, speed, ecstasy, hallucinogens or heroin) within the past year. As with cannabis, youth (15 to 19 years) (5%) and young adults (20 to 24 years) (6%) reported a higher prevalence of past-year use than adults (1%) (25 years and over).

Cannabis possession accounts for more than half of all police-reported drug offences

As has been the case historically, the majority of police-reported drug offences in 2013 involved cannabis (67%) (Chart 2). While the rate of cannabis offences remained substantially higher in 2013 than rates for other types of drugs, it decreased slightly from the previous year (-2%). Despite the decline, the rate of cannabis offences was 8% higher than a decade earlier in 2003.

In recent years, the rate of police-reported cannabis offences was highest in 2011. However, the rate of cannabis offences in Canada peaked in 1981, before declining and reaching its lowest point in 1991 (119 per 100,000). The decline in the police-reported rate of drug offences in the early 1980s was largely driven by a decline in possession offences and may be related to the introduction of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which in part introduced protections against unreasonable searches and seizures by police (Rosenberg 2009).

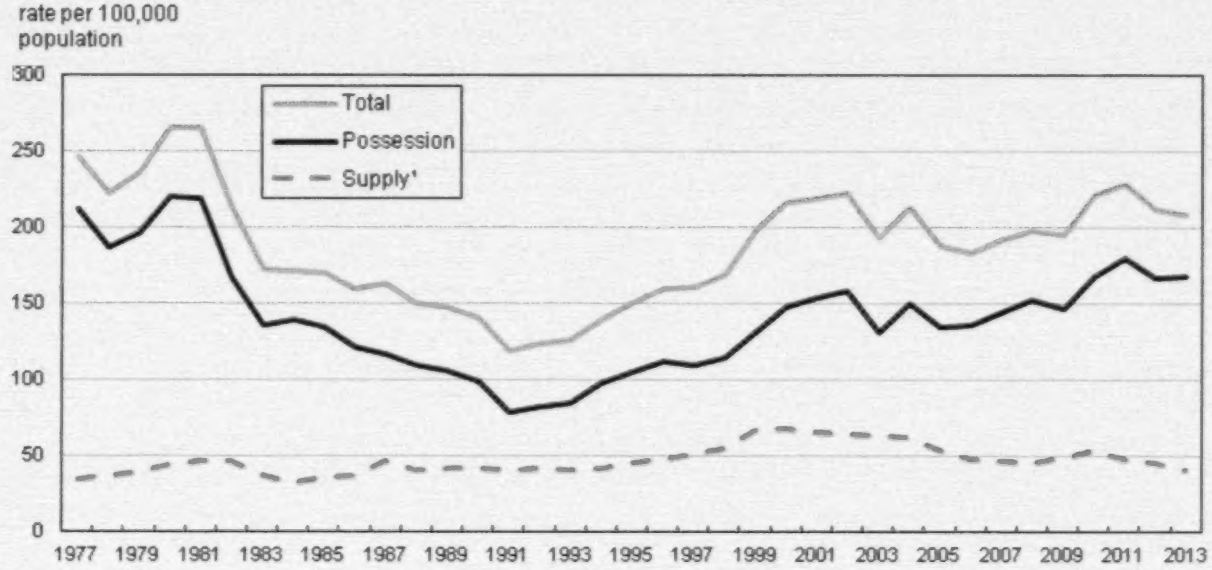
Chart 2
Police-reported drug offences, by type of substance, Canada, 1977 to 2013



1. Includes heroin, methamphetamines (crystal meth), methylenedioxyamphetamine (ecstasy), precursors and equipment, and other controlled drugs and substances.
Note: Drug offences include possession, trafficking, import/export, and production. Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with minor offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some minor offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations. Data for specific types of crime are available, in most cases, from 1977. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Of the roughly 73,000 police-reported cannabis offences in 2013, nearly 59,000 (80%) were possession offences. In 2013, possession of cannabis accounted for 54% of all police-reported drug crime. While the rate of cannabis possession (168 per 100,000) remained relatively stable from 2012 (+1%), it was 28% higher than it was in 2003, and more than double (+114%) the rate in 1991, when it was at its lowest point. In contrast, police-reported cannabis supply offences (trafficking, importing, exporting, and production) have decreased in recent years (Chart 3A). The rate of cannabis supply offences (41 per 100,000) in 2013 was 10% lower than that of 2012 and 35% below the rate in 2003. With the exception of a peak in the late 1990s and early 2000s, however, the rate of cannabis supply offences has been relatively stable since 1983.

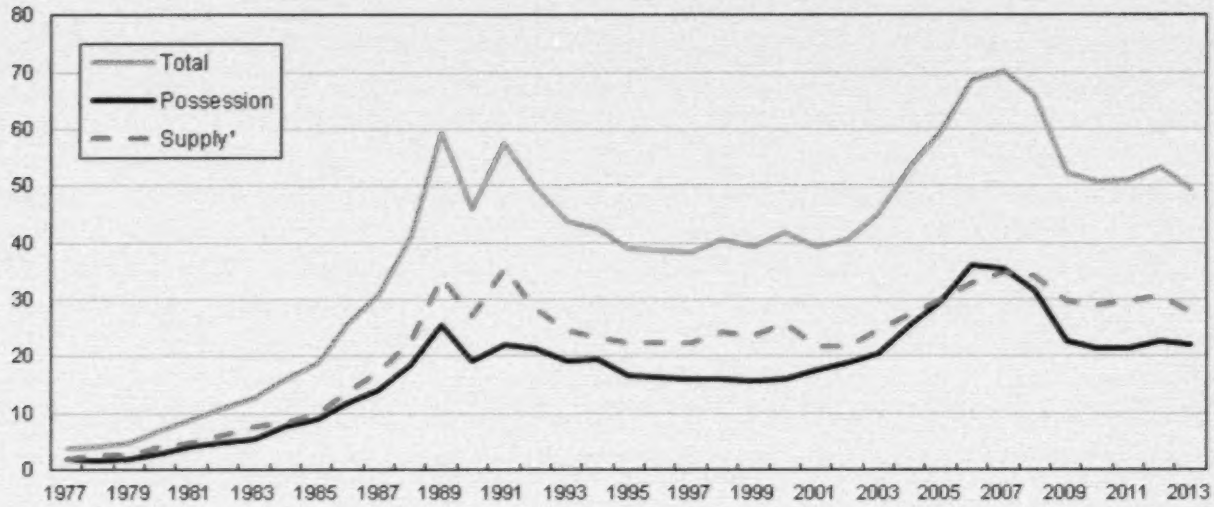
Chart 3A
Police-reported cannabis offences, by type of offence, Canada, 1977 to 2013



1. Includes the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* violations of trafficking, import, export, and production.
Note: Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with minor offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some minor offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations. Data for specific types of crime are available, in most cases, from 1977. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

In 2013, there were about 17,500 police-reported cocaine offences, representing a rate of 50 incidents per 100,000 population and a 7% decrease in rate from 2012. Although the rate of cocaine offences was higher than it was in 2003, it was lower than it was at its peak in 2007 (Chart 3B). After cannabis, offences involving cocaine were the next most frequent police-reported drug offences in 2013, as has been the case each year since 1988. Unlike cannabis and other illicit drugs where the majority of offences are related to possession, cocaine-related offences tend to have a higher proportion of offences related to supply (56% in 2013).

Chart 3B
Police-reported cocaine offences, by type of offence, Canada, 1977 to 2013



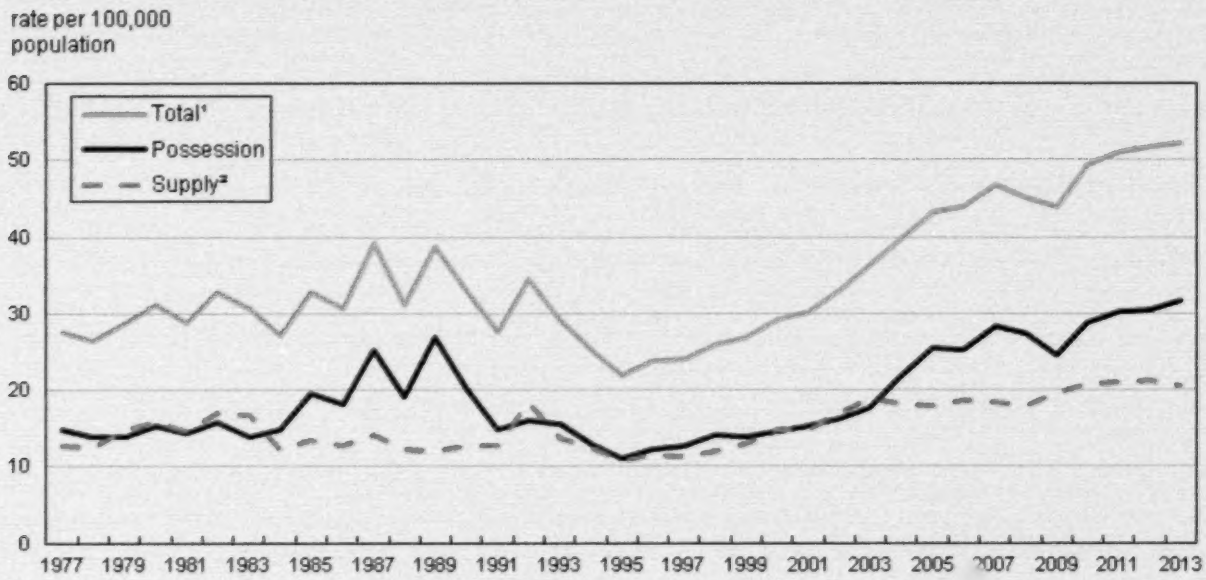
1. Includes the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* violations of trafficking, import, export, and production.

Note: Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with minor offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some minor offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations. Data for specific types of crime are available, in most cases, from 1977. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Offences involving other types of drugs or controlled substances, such as heroin, methamphetamines (crystal meth), ecstasy, or other substances, have generally been increasing since 1995 (Chart 3C).[6] The rate of offences involving other drugs increased slightly (+1%) in 2013, and reached 52 incidents per 100,000 population. This increase was driven by an increase in possession offences (+4%), as offences involving the supply of other drugs decreased from the previous year (-3%). More specifically, offences involving the possession of crystal meth (+27%) and heroin (+16%) drove the increase.

Chart 3C
Police-reported offences involving other controlled drugs and substances, by type of offence, Canada, 1977 to 2013



1. Includes heroin, methamphetamines (crystal meth), methylenedioxyamphetamine (ecstasy), precursors and equipment, and other controlled drugs and substances.
2. Includes the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* violations of trafficking, import, export, and production.

Note: Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with minor offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some minor offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations. Data for specific types of crime are available, in most cases, from 1977. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

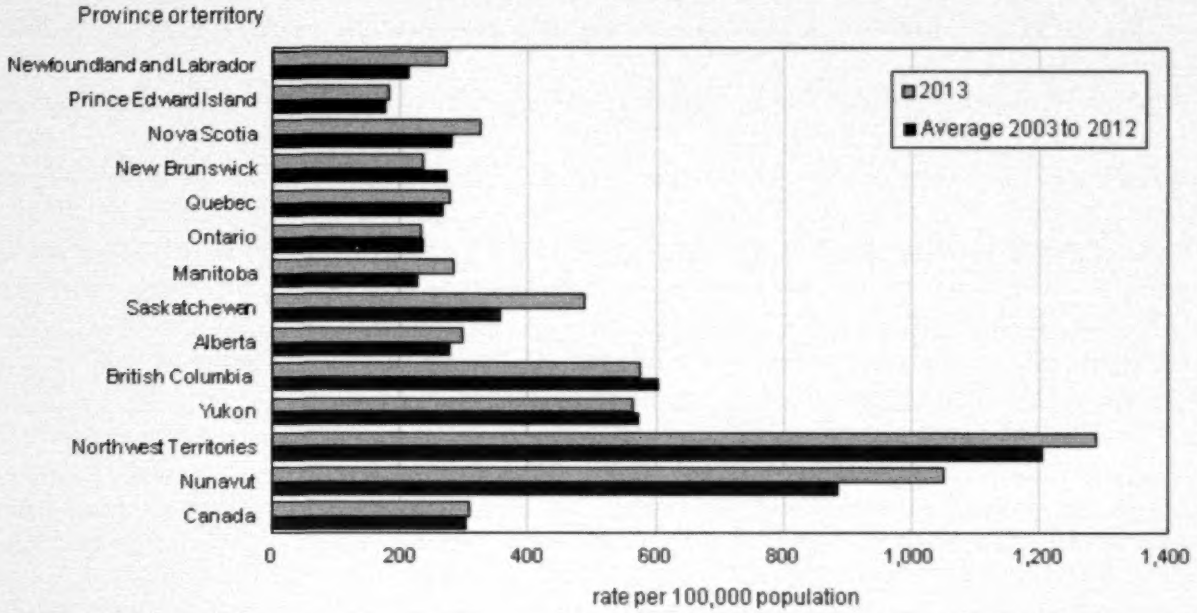
British Columbia reports highest provincial rate of police-reported drug offences

As with crime in general, rates of police-reported drug offences vary by province and territory. In 2013, a considerable decrease in the rate of drug offences in Saskatchewan (-13%), along with a modest increase in British Columbia (+3%), resulted in British Columbia having the highest police-reported drug offence rate among the provinces (576 per 100,000) (Table 2). Since 1982, British Columbia has reported the highest rate of drug-related crime among the provinces each year, with the exception of 2012, where Saskatchewan reported a slightly higher rate. Cannabis accounted for about two-thirds (69%) of all police-reported drug offences in British Columbia in 2013.

In 2013, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut had police-reported drug offence rates that were higher than any province (1,289 per 100,000 and 1,051 per 100,000, respectively) (Table 2). In contrast, the rate of police-reported drug offences in Yukon was about half that of the other territories (564 per 100,000), roughly aligning with the rate reported in British Columbia. These trends have held over the past decade.

Seven of the ten provinces and two of the three territories recorded a rate of drug-related offences in 2013 that was above their previous ten-year average (Chart 4). New Brunswick, Ontario, British Columbia, and Yukon were the only exceptions, while rates in Saskatchewan (+36%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+27%), and Manitoba (+24%) were substantially higher than their average over the previous ten years.

Chart 4
Police-reported drug offences, by province and territory, 2013



Note: Drug offences include possession, trafficking, import/export, and production. Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with minor offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some minor offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations. Data for specific types of crime are available, in most cases, from 1977. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

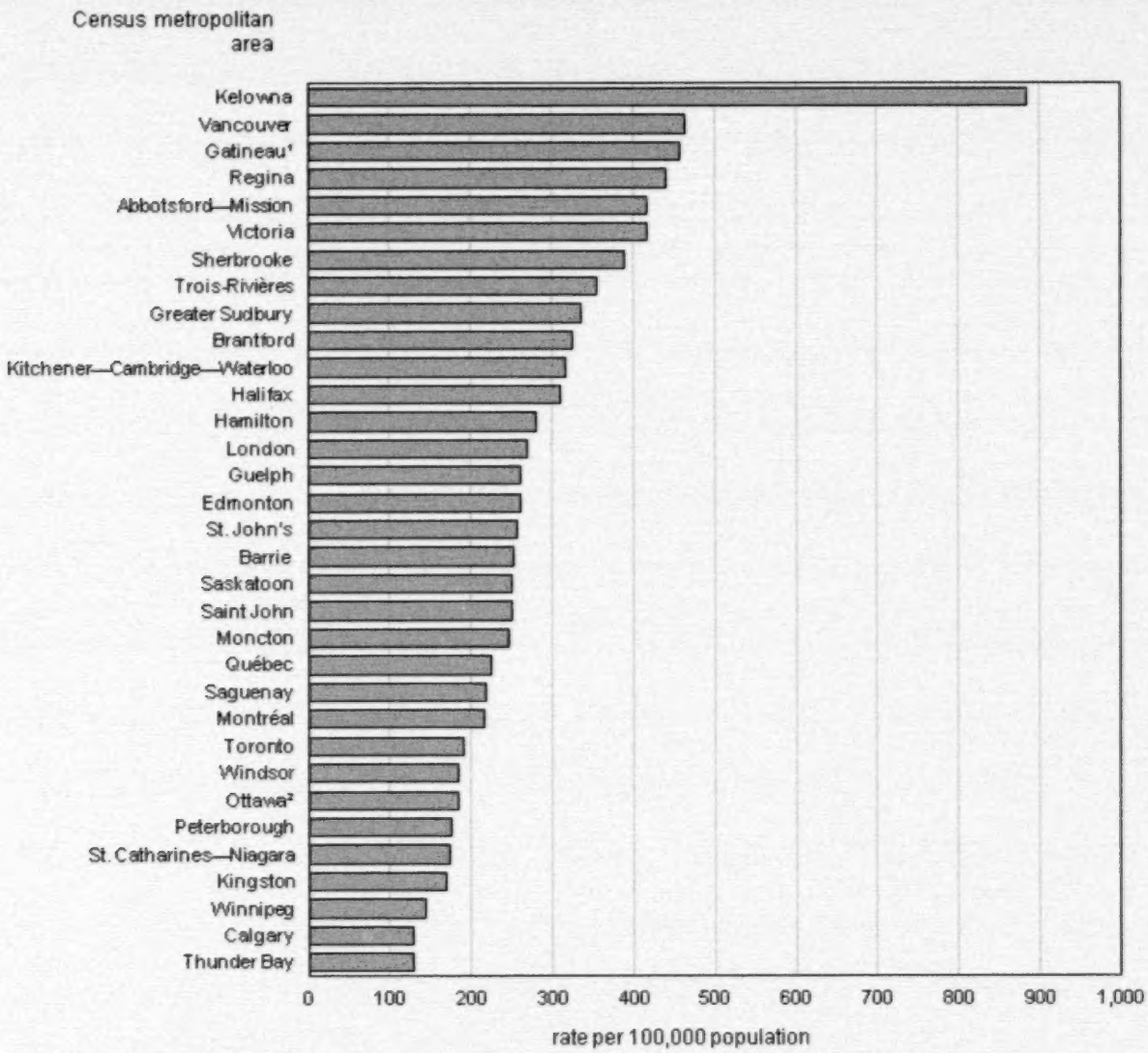
In each province, cannabis accounted for a higher proportion of drug offences than any other substance. British Columbia, with 398 cannabis-related offences per 100,000 population, had the highest rate of police-reported cannabis offences among the provinces, followed by Saskatchewan (293 per 100,000) and Nova Scotia (236 per 100,000). British Columbia also reported the highest provincial rate of offences involving crystal meth (28 per 100,000). In contrast, Saskatchewan reported the highest rate of cocaine offences among the provinces (136 per 100,000), while the rate of offences involving other controlled drugs and substances was highest in Prince Edward Island (79 per 100,000).

Among the territories, rates of cannabis offences in the Northwest Territories (930 per 100,000) and Nunavut (1,000 per 100,000) were about five times higher than the national average, while Yukon reported a rate of cannabis-related offences that was more similar to the provinces (302 per 100,000). Similar to the provinces, cannabis accounted for the majority of police-reported drug offences in each territory. That said, the rates of cocaine-related offences in the Northwest Territories (305 per 100,000) and Yukon (210 per 100,000) were considerably higher than the national rate (50 per 100,000), while Nunavut recorded the lowest rate of cocaine-related offences of any province or territory (17 per 100,000). The rate of other *CDSA* offences was similar between the provinces and the territories, and there were no methamphetamine-related offences reported in any territory.

Kelowna reports highest rate of drug offences

The trend at the provincial level was reflected among Canada's census metropolitan areas[7] (CMAs), as British Columbia's four CMAs reported among the highest rates of police-reported drug offences in 2013. Kelowna, with a rate of 885 police-reported drug offences per 100,000 population, reported the highest rate among Canada's CMAs for the fourth consecutive year. Vancouver (464 per 100,000) recorded the second highest rate. While Gatineau (457) and Regina (441) had the next highest rates, Abbotsford–Mission (418) and Victoria (417), the remaining CMAs in British Columbia, reported the fifth- and sixth-highest rates among CMAs, respectively (Table 3; Chart 5).

Chart 5
Police-reported drug offences, by census metropolitan area, 2013



1. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
2. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Note: Drug offences include possession, trafficking, import/export, and production of cannabis, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, ecstasy, precursors and equipment, and other controlled drugs and substances. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with minor offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some minor offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations. Data for specific types of crime by census metropolitan area are available from 1991. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based on July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Kelowna's comparatively high drug offence rate was the result of offences involving a number of different illicit substances. Among CMAs, Kelowna reported the highest rates of cannabis-related offences (563 per 100,000) and cocaine-related offences (192 per 100,000). Only Gatineau (63 per 100,000) and Trois-Rivières (55 per 100,000) reported higher rates of offences involving methamphetamines than Kelowna (42 per 100,000), while Greater Sudbury (90 per 100,000) was the only CMA to report a higher rate of offences involving other controlled drugs and substances than Kelowna (89 per 100,000) (Table 3).

While different substances contributed to Kelowna's overall rate of police-reported drug offences, possession offences accounted for the majority (80%) of these violations. With 707 possession offences per 100,000 population, Kelowna reported a drug possession rate that was nearly double that of Vancouver, the CMA with the next highest rate (386 per 100,000). Around 70% of drug possession offences in Kelowna and Vancouver are cannabis possession. Kelowna also reported the highest rate of drug production offences among CMAs, with a rate of 56 incidents per 100,000 population.

The rate of police-reported drug crime can be impacted by police resources, priorities, and operational plans. Kelowna, for example, identified a focus on drug-related crime as one of their 2013 detachment priorities as part of an ongoing crime reduction strategy (Kelowna Police Services 2012; Kelowna Police Services 2013). In addition to Kelowna reporting the highest rate of drug offences among CMAs for the fourth consecutive year in 2013, their rate was 42% higher than the previous year and 81% higher than it was five years prior. Kelowna's investment in addressing drug-related crime may have contributed to their relatively high rate of police-reported drug offences.

Windsor, despite recording a rate of drug offences that was among the lowest of Canada's CMAs, had the highest rate of police-reported offences involving the import or export of drugs. Windsor's rate of 78 incidents of import/export per 100,000 population was about 8 times higher than the CMA with the next highest rate, Toronto (10 per 100,000). Windsor's high rate of police-reported drug import and export offences is partially related to the Ambassador Bridge, which connects Windsor with Detroit, Michigan, and is the busiest crossing point between Canada and the United States (Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2010).

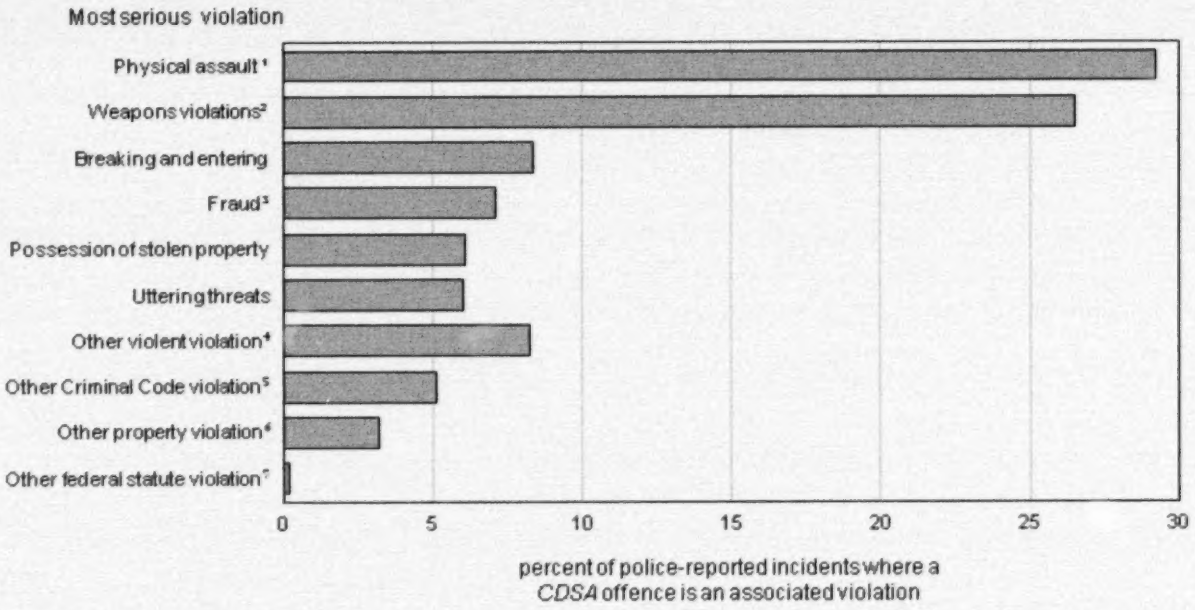
Text box 2
Offences related to drug violations and drug use

The analysis of UCR data in this *Juristat* is based on police-reported incidents where a violation against the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* is the most serious violation within the incident. That said, police are able to submit up to four violations in an incident, and it is therefore possible to analyze incidents where another, more serious offence may be associated with a drug-related offence.

In 2013, just over 5% of all police-reported incidents contained a *CDSA* violation as the most serious violation, while less than 1% (6,855) of all police-reported incidents included a *CDSA* violation that was not the most serious. Of incidents where a *CDSA* violation was not the most serious violation, 44% involved violent offence, while in a further 25% the most serious violation was a property offence, and 32% involved another *Criminal Code* offence as the most serious violation. More specifically, the violations most commonly associated with drug offences were assault[8] (29%), weapons violations[9] (27%), and breaking and entering (8%) (Text box 2 chart).

Text box 2, continued
Offences related to drug violations and drug use

Text box 2 chart
Police-reported violations associated with drug violations, Canada, 2013



1. Includes levels 1 (common), 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm), and 3 (aggravated) assaults, assault against police officers, and other assaults.
2. Includes, for example, violations related to unlawful possession, possession contrary to order, unsafe storage, or improper documentation.
3. Includes identity fraud.
4. Includes sexual assault, use of/discharge/pointing a firearm, robbery, forcible confinement, criminal harassment, and other violent violations.
5. Includes counterfeiting, administration of justice offences, child pornography offences, and other *Criminal Code* violations.
6. Includes motor vehicle theft, theft over $5,000, mischief, and arson.
7. Includes violations against federal statutes other than the *Criminal Code* or the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (i.e., the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, the *Bankruptcy Act*, the *Firearms Act*, etc.).

Note: Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with minor offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some minor offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. Data for specific types of crime are available, in most cases, from 1977. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Another measure of drug-related crime is those offences where the accused person or victims is under the influence of intoxicating substances during the commission of the offence. The Homicide Survey collects information on whether or not the accused person or the victim was under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the incident.

Over the past decade, alcohol and/or drug consumption has been reported by police in the majority of homicides, with just under six in ten victims (59%) and nearly three-quarters of accused persons (72%) under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or another intoxicating substance at the time of the incident (Cotter 2014). In 10% of cases, the victims or accused persons were under the influence of illegal drugs alone at the time of the incident. While this information is not collected by the UCR Survey, research suggests that a large proportion of those incarcerated, both in Canada and internationally, were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the incident that led to their imprisonment (Johnson 2004; Kouyoumdjian et al. 2014).

Open-area cannabis production reported more often in Eastern Canada

Cannabis production accounted for 96% of all police-reported drug production offences in 2013. Of the nearly 4,800 reported cannabis production offences, about two-thirds (64%) occurred in a private home or surrounding structure (such as a garage or shed), while more than one-quarter (27%) occurred in an open area (areas of public access, parks, playgrounds, bodies of water, etc.) (data not shown). The location for these types of offences, however, varied across the country, with the eastern part of the country generally having a higher proportion of production incidents which occurred in an open area. In Alberta, for example, 89% of police-reported cannabis production offences occurred in a private home, compared to just 3% in an open area. In contrast, Quebec (40%) and the Atlantic provinces (Newfoundland and Labrador 33%, Prince Edward Island 47%, and New Brunswick 30%), with the exception of Nova Scotia (21%), each reported a proportion of open area cannabis production offences that was higher than the national average.

Most drug-related offences solved by police; departmental discretion more common for cannabis possession

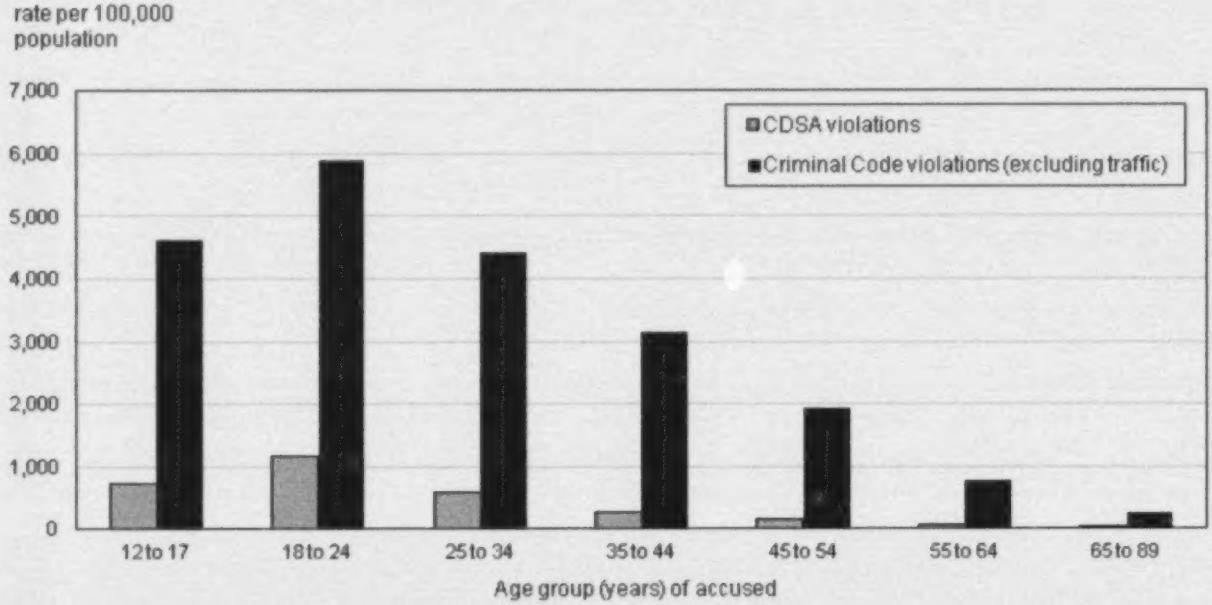
Of all police-reported drug-related offences in 2013, more than three-quarters (78%) were cleared, or solved, by police. In contrast, 41% of *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic) reported to police in 2013 were solved. The comparatively high clearance rate was driven by possession offences, as 85% of such offences were solved by police. Possession offences typically involve the presence of drugs on a person and as such are more likely to be cleared than other types of offences. In contrast, 67% of trafficking offences, 50% of offences involving import or export, and 36% of production offences were solved by police. When looking at the type of drug, offences involving methamphetamines (83%) or heroin (83%) were most likely to be solved by police, while those involving other controlled drugs and substances (70%) or cocaine (73%) had the lowest clearance rates.

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey also allows for more detailed information on the clearance status of police-reported offences. In general, drug-related offences are more likely than crime in general to be cleared through departmental discretion (26% compared to 8%). More than four in ten (41%) of all cleared cannabis offences were cleared through departmental discretion, while 17% of all other cleared drug offences were cleared by discretion. When looking at possession offences, 45% of cannabis and 24% of other drug types were cleared through departmental discretion. British Columbia, which reported the highest rate of drug-related offences in 2013, also reported the highest proportion of offences cleared by departmental discretion (i.e., by giving a warning, caution, or referral to a community-based program rather than laying a charge). Almost half (47%) of drug-related incidents in British Columbia were cleared through these means, of which the large majority (94%) were related to possession.

Drug-related offences involve younger accused persons than crime in general

In 2013, persons accused of drug-related offences tended to be younger than those accused of crime in general, as the median age of accused persons was 5 years younger for those accused of a drug-related offence (24 years of age compared to 29). The rate of drug-related offences was highest among those ages 18 to 24 years (1,176 per 100,000), considerably higher than the rate among 12 to 17-year-olds (741 per 100,000), and more than double the rate of those age 25 to 34 (580 per 100,000) (Chart 6).

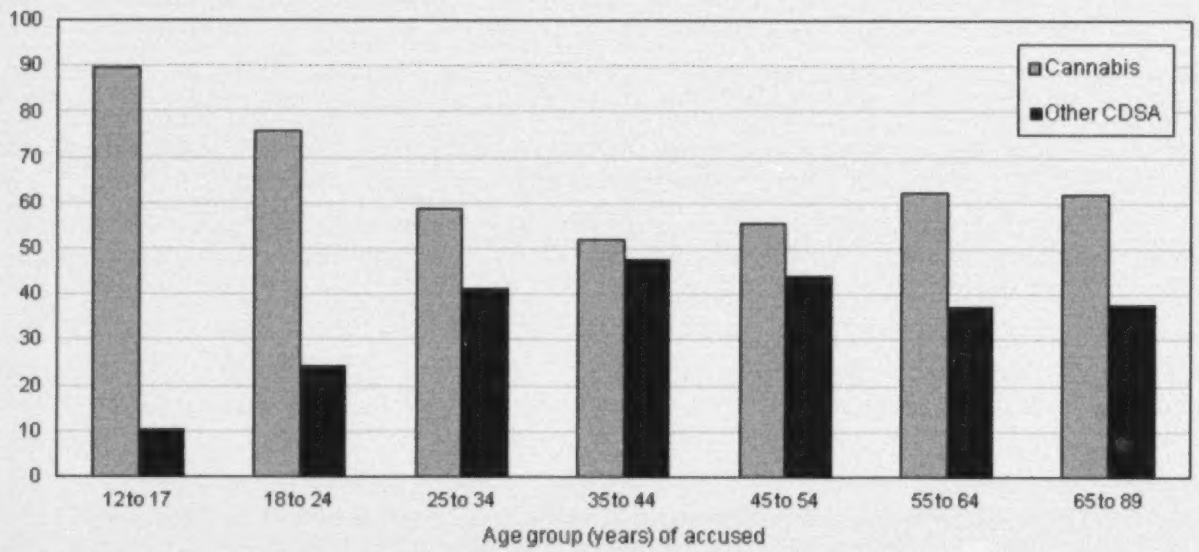
Chart 6
Police-reported rate of drug offences and *Criminal Code* offences, by age group of accused person, Canada, 2013



Note: Excludes accused persons whose age was reported as unknown by police.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

While cannabis-related offences accounted for the majority of offences regardless of the age group of the accused person, the highest proportion of cannabis offences was recorded by younger accused. Nine in ten (90%) 12- to 17-year-olds accused of a drug-related offence were accused of an offence involving cannabis (81% for cannabis possession). This proportion decreases with age until the 35 to 44 year old age group when the proportion of offences involving cannabis declined to 52% (Chart 7).

Chart 7
Police-reported rate of drug offences, by age group of accused person and violation, Canada, 2013



Note: Other CDSA includes cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines (crystal meth), methylenedioxyamphetamine (ecstasy), precursors and equipment, and other controlled drugs and substances. Excludes accused persons whose age was reported as unknown by police.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

About two in ten (18%) persons accused of drug-related offences in 2013 were female, a proportion which was slightly lower than for police-reported crime in general, as females accounted for one-quarter (24%) of persons accused of police-reported crime overall. Offences involving the import or export of drugs had the highest proportion of female accused (29%), while possession offences had the lowest (17%). International research suggests that many women who are involved in the drug trade are in lower-ranking, but higher-risk positions, often involving the smuggling or transportation of drugs (United Nations 2014).

There was some variation in the proportion of females accused in drug-related offences by type of drug. Females accounted for about one-quarter of persons accused of a methamphetamine offence (24%) or heroin offence (23%). In contrast, females were comparatively less likely to be accused of an offence involving cannabis (16%).

Text box 3
Police-reported drug-impaired driving offences stable in 2013

In addition to the data on *CDSA* offences collected through the UCR Survey, data on impaired driving offences involving illicit drugs are also available. As of July 2008, the *Criminal Code* allows police to perform compulsory roadside analyses and assessments if they suspect a driver is under the influence of drugs (Owusu-Bempah 2014; Perreault 2013). However, research suggests that determining and measuring the level of drug impairment can be more difficult and less reliable than the measures that exist to detect alcohol-impaired driving (Owusu-Bempah 2014).

In 2013, there were 78,391 police-reported incidents of impaired driving, of which 1,984, or 3%, involved drug-impaired driving. The rate of drug-impaired driving in Canada remained stable in 2013, at 6 per 100,000 population. The vast majority (98%) of drug-impaired driving incidents involved impaired operation, while a smaller proportion involved a refusal to comply or provide a sample (1%) or impaired operation causing death or bodily harm (1%). About one in five (22%) persons accused of drug-impaired driving were women, similar to the proportion of women accused of impaired driving involving alcohol (19%).

Section II: Completed drug-related cases in Canada's adult criminal and youth courts

Drug-related offences also involve resources from other areas of the criminal justice system, including the criminal courts, as 8% of all completed cases in adult criminal and youth courts in 2011/2012 involved drugs[10,11]. The previous analyses explored trends in police-reported drug offences in Canada based on data from the UCR where the most serious violation in the incident was a drug offence. This section looks at completed criminal court cases involving at least one drug-related charge in the case – whether or not it was the most serious charge.

For the subsequent analysis, a unique linked database using policing and courts records was created in order to examine trends in completed court cases, sentencing, and characteristics of drug cases by type of drug involved. On its own, the courts database does not differentiate by type of drug; hence a linkage to policing records was necessary. The database created includes completed court cases from adult and youth criminal courts over the period from 2008/2009 through to 2011/2012 where at least one charge in the case was drug-related and where the case was successfully linked to police records (see Text box 4).

More than half of all completed drug-related court cases involved cannabis

From 2008/2009 to 2011/2012, there were 158,910 completed criminal court cases where at least one charge in the case was drug-related and where the court record could be linked to a police-reported incident record[12,13]. Of these, 137,182 (86%) were adult criminal cases and 21,728 (14%) were youth cases (Table 4).

Similar to findings from police-reported data, the majority of these completed drug-related cases in adult criminal and youth courts were related to cannabis, including 55% of completed adult drug-related cases and 77% of completed youth drug-related cases (Table 4). Nearly three in ten (29%) completed adult drug-related cases involved cocaine, compared to about one in ten (9%) completed drug-related cases in youth court. The proportions were similar for methamphetamines (2% of all completed cases both for adult criminal and youth court) and all other controlled drugs and substances (14% of completed adult cases versus 12% of completed youth cases).

The majority of completed drug-related cases in adult criminal courts involved charges related to possession (69%). For adults, there was a difference in the proportion of possession cases by type of drug, as nearly eight in ten (79%) completed cases related to cannabis involved possession, while 56% of completed cases related to other drugs were possession cases. Similarly, more than three-quarters (77%) of completed drug-related youth court cases involved possession, with cannabis-related cases more often related to possession than those cases involving other drugs (84% compared to 57%). Meanwhile, about one-quarter (27%) of completed drug-related cases in adult criminal courts involved trafficking, with smaller proportions related to production (4%) and import or export charges (less than 1%) (Table 5).

Text box 4
Record linkage methodology

The Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) collects information on charges processed through Canada's adult criminal and youth courts, with charge information based on sections and subsections of federal statutes, including the *CDSA*. However, the *CDSA* categorizes controlled drugs and substances according to schedules; each schedule includes multiple controlled drugs and substances. The ICCS captures information on drug-related court cases by schedule; because of the way the *CDSA* is written, analysis by specific type of drug cannot be undertaken with the ICCS.

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, in contrast, allows police to report drug-related violations by specific drug type. Therefore, by linking the courts data with the police-reported data, it becomes possible to analyze adult criminal and youth court statistics by specific type of drug involved.

The record linkage was done using UCR data from 2007 to 2012 and ICCS data from 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. Over this period, 80.4% of all drug-related charges could be linked to police records (see Methodology). Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Half of all cannabis-related cases involved a single charge

For both adults and youth, completed cases including cannabis often involved the cannabis-related offence as the only charge in the case. Single charge cases made up 48% of all completed cases for both adults and youth (Table 6). More specifically, cannabis-related possession cases involved a single charge in 55% of completed adult criminal court cases and

50% of youth court cases. Cannabis-related supply cases involved a single charge in 24% of adult cases and 35% of youth cases, respectively.

In contrast, completed cases involving drugs other than cannabis were more likely to involve additional offences in the case. For these types of cases, 23% of adult and 24% of youth cases involved a single charge, roughly half the proportion of cannabis-related cases. Possession cases for drugs other than cannabis involved a single charge in 29% of adult cases and 30% of youth cases, while for supply cases, 15% of cases for both adults and youth were single-charge cases.

British Columbia recorded lowest proportion of cannabis cases

Cannabis-related cases accounted for more than half of all completed drug-related cases in adult criminal court in each province[14], with the exception of British Columbia, where one-third (32%) of completed drug-related cases involved cannabis (Table 7). Among the provinces, the proportion of completed drug-related cases involving cannabis was highest in Newfoundland and Labrador (69%), Saskatchewan (66%), and Nova Scotia (66%). One factor which may be related to the low proportion of cannabis related court cases is the relatively low charge rate for cannabis offences in British Columbia. In 2013, 28% of accused were cleared by charge in British Columbia, 13 percentage points lower than the next province, Nova Scotia (41%).

Cannabis-related cases also accounted for the majority of completed drug-related youth court cases in all jurisdictions. As with adult courts, British Columbia reported the lowest proportion of cannabis-related completed cases among the provinces (52%), while Saskatchewan (84%) and Ontario (82%) reported the highest.

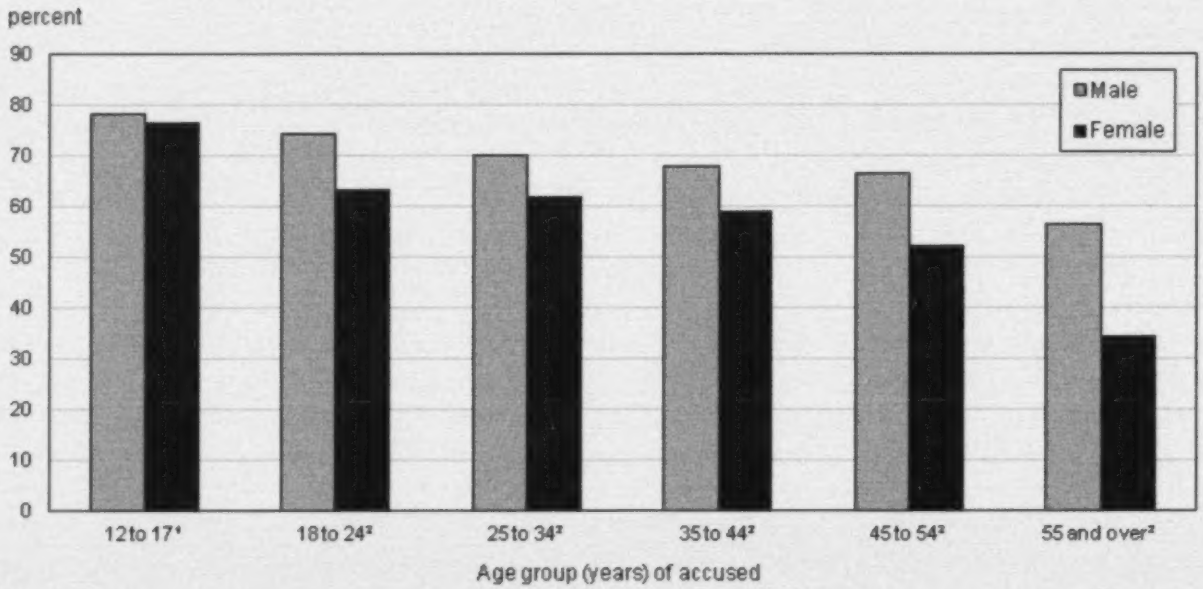
Type of drug charges associated with completed cases varies by age group

Most completed drug-related adult criminal court cases involved a male accused, regardless of the drug type involved. In total, 85% of accused persons in completed drug-related adult court cases were male, a proportion which ranged from 76% of those accused in cases involving methamphetamines to 88% of those accused in cannabis-related cases.

For male accused as well as for females, the type of drug most frequently seen in completed drug-related cases varied with age. Among youth, cannabis-related cases were the most common for both males (79% of completed drug-related cases against male youth) and females (66% of such cases). This pattern changed with the age of the accused, with cases against men aged 35 to 44 and women 25 to 34 involving drugs other than cannabis accounting for greater proportions of completed drug-related cases. For both males and females in the 55-year and over age group, cannabis-related cases were again more prevalent, with 54% of completed drug-related cases against male accused and 53% of such cases against females involving cannabis.

As the most common type of drug in completed court cases varied with age, so did the types of drug offences. For males, nearly four in five (78%) completed drug-related cases against youth accused involved possession offences, compared to just over half (56%) of those aged 55 and over. A similar pattern was recorded for women, as 77% of completed drug-related cases against youth females and 34% of those cases against females over age 55 involved possession (Chart 8).

Chart 8
Completed drug-related cases involving possession in adult criminal and youth court, by age group and sex of accused person, Canada, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012



1. Includes only cases completed in youth court in Canada.
2. Includes cases completed in adult criminal court in Canada.

Note: Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. Excludes completed cases where the age and/or sex of the accused person was unknown. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases in this chart represent a subset of completed adult criminal and youth court cases from 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. This subset includes all completed cases over this period where at least one charge was drug related and where the case was linked to police records.

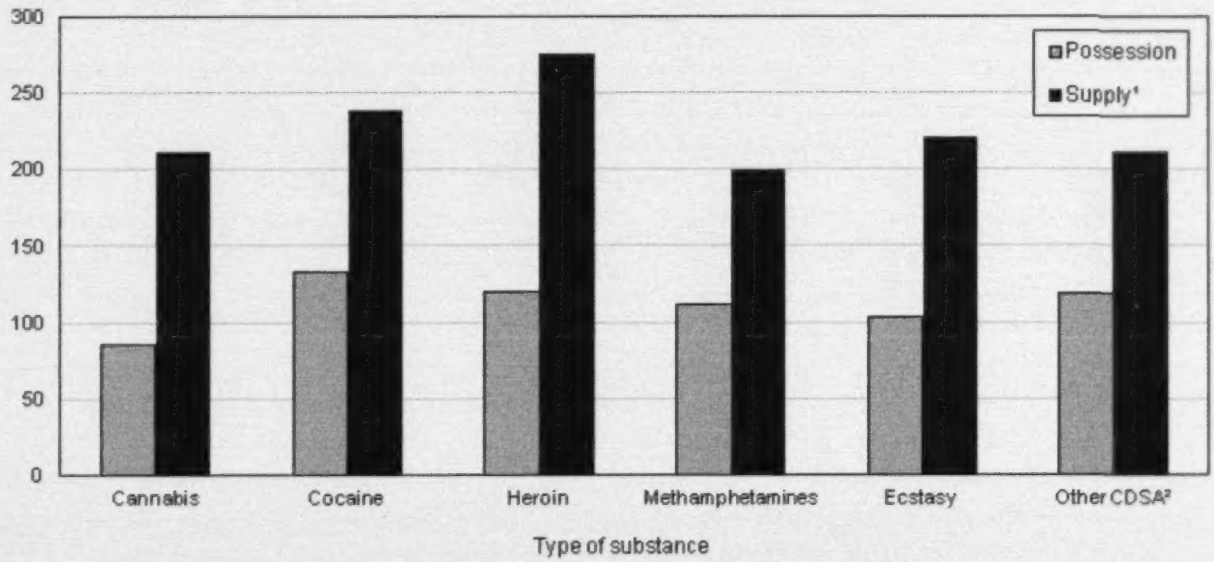
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey linked database, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012.

Cases related to drugs other than cannabis took longer to complete

Drug-related cases processed in adult criminal court generally took longer to complete than non-drug related cases. The median length of time from the first to the final appearance in drug-related cases was 128 days, compared to 111 days for non-drug-related cases. The exception to this were cases involving cannabis, which took considerably less time to complete than non-drug-related cases and cases involving other drug types. Cases involving cannabis, for example, took a median of 105 days from first to final appearance, roughly half as long as the median case length for cases involving heroin (202 days).

The length of a completed case varied depending on the nature of the drug offence, as the median length to complete a possession cases was considerably shorter than the median length of supply-related cases (98 days compared to 223 days). Regardless of the type of drug involved, cases involving supply offences took about twice as long to complete as those related to possession (Chart 9).

Chart 9
Median length of case time for completed drug-related cases in adult criminal court, by type of drug and type of offence, Canada, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012



1. Cases related to drug supply include trafficking, import, export, and production of controlled drugs and substances.
2. Includes all other controlled drugs and substances not listed, for example, barbiturates, LSD, and "date rape" drugs.
Note: The length of case is measured by from the first appearance for any charge in the case to the final appearance. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases in this chart represent a subset of completed adult criminal court cases from 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. This subset includes all completed cases over this period where at least one charge was drug related and where the case was linked to police records. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey linked database, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012

Completed drug-related cases involving cannabis more frequently stayed or withdrawn

In total, just over half (52%) of all drug-related cases completed in adult criminal court resulted in a guilty decision, less than for completed non-drug related cases (63%).[15] This was driven by cannabis offences, which made up the majority of completed drug-related cases but were less likely to result in a decision of guilt (44%). Completed cases involving other types of drugs resulted in guilty decisions more often, as with drugs such as heroin (63%), cocaine (62%), and methamphetamines (62%) (Table 8).

While about 47% of all completed drug-related cases were stayed or withdrawn, those involving cannabis were more frequently stayed or withdrawn than those involving other drugs (55% compared to 38%). A stay or withdrawal often occurs, particularly in relatively less serious offences, when the Crown counsel believes that certain conditions or alternative measures, such as community service, restorative justice, referrals to specialized programs, or treatment or education, if completed successfully, are more appropriate than judicial proceedings (Public Prosecution Service of Canada 2014).

Whether a completed drug-related case involved a possession offence or a supply offence generally had little impact on the type of decision reached in adult criminal court. For both types of offences, a decision of guilt was the most common outcome (51% of completed possession cases and 53% of completed supply cases), followed by a stay or withdrawal (48% and 45%). A small proportion of cases resulted in an acquittal (0.2% and 1%) or another decision[16] (0.4% and 0.5%) (Table 8). Broken down by type of drug, cannabis supply offences resulted in a higher proportion of cases with a guilty decision (49%) than cannabis possession offences (43%), while the reverse was true for completed cases involving drugs other than cannabis (56% for supply versus 65% for possession).

Youth courts reported similar breakdowns of decisions by type of drug and by type of offence, with 48% of all completed cases resulting in a decision of guilt (Table 9). Cases related to the possession (42%) or supply (51%) of cannabis were less likely to result in a finding of guilt than those involving the possession (60%) or supply (61%) of other drugs.

However, cases involving methamphetamines more often resulted in a decision of guilt in youth court when compared to adult criminal court (73% compared to 62%). Methamphetamines cases also hold the highest proportion of guilty decisions amongst youth where other drugs range from 44-60% having a decision of guilt. The comparatively high proportion for guilty decisions in youth cases involving methamphetamines was primarily due to the province of Quebec, where 85% of all completed youth methamphetamine cases occurred. The large proportion of methamphetamine-related cases occurring in Quebec is related to a province-wide directive, implemented in 2006, which was focused on targeting offences related to methamphetamines through treatment, awareness, and prevention, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups or those groups with the highest tendencies to use methamphetamines, including youth (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux 2006).

Text box 5
Criminal justice alternatives for drug users and offenders in Canada

Drug treatment court is an alternative to incarceration which aims to decrease drug-related crime, promote drug abstinence, and reduce the effects of substance abuse on the Canadian economy (Government of Canada 2014).

To qualify, the accused is screened by a Crown prosecutor and must plead guilty in a traditional court. Those accused of a violent crime or drug trafficking are ineligible (Lyons 2013). Once qualified, individuals are subjected to a year or more of supervised addiction treatment, as well as weekly meetings with the individual's treatment counsel that includes but is not limited to the judge, the Crown, and the duty counsellor (Lyons 2013). In order to successfully complete the treatment, participants are expected to abstain from drugs and alcohol.

The Integrated Criminal Court Survey is designed to collect data from drug treatment courts in Canada, though coverage of these courts is limited and cannot be isolated. These courts are nevertheless frequently subject to analysis and evaluation through other means. Since 2007, over 1,000 persons charged with a drug-related offence have qualified for and participated in a drug treatment court; about one-third (35%) successfully completed the program or are still enrolled, while the remainder (65%) returned to the regular court system (Department of Justice 2015). In the Canadian context, research suggests that successful graduation from a court-assigned drug treatment program can considerably lessen the frequency of recidivism; however, the completion rate is relatively low (Currie & Raguparan 2013; Public Safety Canada 2008; Somers et al. 2012).

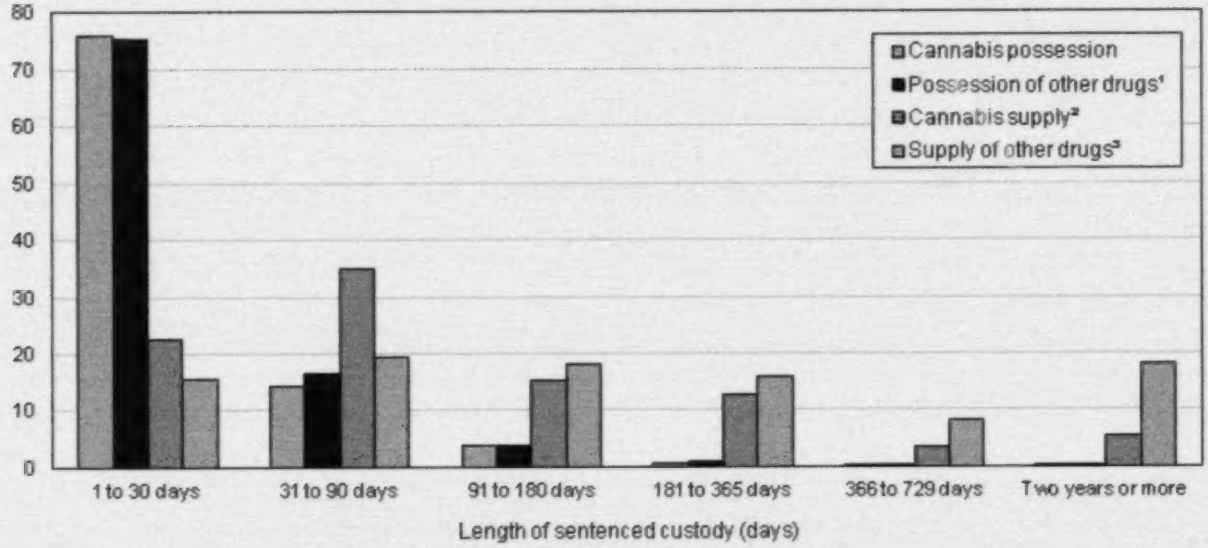
About half of guilty cases of drug supply offences result in custody

A sentence of custody was imposed in about one-third (32%) of all completed drug-related cases in adult criminal court with a finding of guilt, a proportion which was similar to non-drug-related cases (36%). Among drug cases overall, the median length of custody was approximately ten times longer for supply offences than for possession-related offences (150 days compared to 14 days) (Table 10).

Certain types of drugs and certain types of offences were proportionately more likely to result in sentenced custody. Almost half (46%) of supply offences with a decision of guilt included custody as part of the sentence, a proportion nearly double that of possession-related offences (25%). Guilty cases involving cannabis possession (16%) and supply (27%) less commonly involved custody compared to possession (36%) or supply (55%) of other drugs.

Over four in five (81%) drug-related cases where there was a sentence of custody imposed involved a sentence of less than six months.[17] Regardless of the type of drug, cases involving possession typically involved shorter sentences of custody, with about three-quarters for a period of one month or less (Chart 10). Cases involving supply typically resulted in longer sentences of custody than possession cases (for example one year or more), though cases involving supply of cannabis were not likely to result in longer sentences.

Chart 10
Completed cases in adult criminal court sentenced to custody, by length of custody, type of offence, and type of drug, Canada, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012



1. Includes possession of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, ecstasy, precursors and equipment, and other controlled drugs and substances.
2. Includes trafficking, import/export, and production of cannabis.
3. Includes trafficking, import/export, and production of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, ecstasy, and other controlled drugs and substances.

Note: Percent calculations include cases where the length of custody was unknown or not yet disposed. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases in this chart represent a subset of completed adult criminal court cases from 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. This subset includes all completed cases over this period where at least one charge was drug related and where the case was linked to police records. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. Manitoba does not report information on length of custody.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey linked database, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012.

The imposition of a fine was a fairly common penalty imposed in completed drug-related cases (32%), more so than for completed non-drug-related cases (25%). Drug-related cases involving cannabis were distinct from those involving other types of drugs, as completed cases involving cannabis involved a fine in 43% of completed cases with a guilty decision. Proportionately, cases involving other types of drugs included a fine about half as often as cannabis related cases.

Cannabis possession offences involved fines more frequently than cannabis supply offences (52% versus 16%), but often involved lower amounts (a median of $250 compared to $1,000). One-third (33%) of cases involving the possession of drugs other than cannabis involved a fine as part or all of the sentence, compared to 4% of cases involving the supply of other drugs.

About one-third (33%) of all completed drug-related cases involved probation as part or all of the sentence, a proportion similar to non-drug related cases (29%). Little variation in the frequency of probation was recorded between cases involving possession (34%) versus supply (31%), and sentences of probation were also similarly distributed regardless of the type of drug involved.

Probation most common sentence for youth in drug-related cases

In contrast to sentencing outcomes for drug-related guilty cases in adult criminal courts, sentences in youth court involved probation much more frequently than custody or fines (Table 11). Almost two-thirds (63%) of all completed drug-related cases with a decision of guilt in youth court involved a sentence of probation, compared to fewer than one in ten where a sentence of custody (9%) or a fine (7%) was imposed.

Summary

There were about 109,000 police-reported *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* violations in 2013, a rate of 310 per 100,000 population. Drug-related violations accounted for about 5% of all incidents reported to police.

As has been the case for more than 30 years, cannabis accounted for the majority of police-reported drug offences, representing about two-thirds of all drug offences in 2013. More specifically, cannabis possession accounted for over half of all police-reported drug offences. British Columbia reported the highest provincial rate of drug offences, while Kelowna had the highest rate among census metropolitan areas.

Cannabis also accounted for the majority of completed drug-related cases in both adult criminal and youth courts. Cannabis-related cases were more likely to be stayed or withdrawn compared to cases involving other types of illicit drugs. In addition, cannabis-related cases, when found guilty, less frequently involved a sentence of custody and more commonly involved fines when compared to other types of drug.

Almost half of all cases with a decision of guilt related to drug supply involved a sentence of custody, compared to about one-quarter of possession cases. In addition, the median length of custody was about ten times longer in supply cases (150 days compared to 14 days).

Survey descriptions

Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR1) Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was established in 1962 with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The scope of the survey is *Criminal Code* offences and other federal statutes that have been reported to federal, provincial or municipal police services in Canada and that have been substantiated through investigation by these services.

Coverage of the UCR aggregate data reflects virtually 100% of the total caseload for all police services in Canada. One incident can involve multiple offences. In order to ensure comparability, counts presented in this article are based upon the most serious offence in the incident as determined by a standard classification rule used by all police services. Counts based upon all violations are available upon request.

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey collects detailed information on criminal incidents that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by Canadian police services. Information includes characteristics pertaining to incidents (weapon, location), victims (age, sex, accused-victim relationships) and accused persons (age, sex). In 2013, data from police services covered 99% of the population of Canada.

Integrated Criminal Court Survey

The Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) is administered by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (Statistics Canada) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for criminal courts in Canada. The survey collects statistical information on adult and youth court cases involving *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences. The primary unit of analysis is a case. A case is defined as one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. A case combines all charges against the same person having one or more key overlapping dates (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, date of decision, or date of sentencing) into a single case.

Drug-related cases are defined using the "any in the case" method. In other words, a case that has more than one charge is represented by the charge which is drug-related, regardless of whether or not it is the most serious charge in the case. If there is more than one drug charge, the case is represented by the most serious drug-related charge, selected according to the following rules. First, decisions are considered and the drug charge with the "most serious decision" (MSD) is selected.

Second, in cases where two or more drug charges result in the same MSD (e.g., guilty), the severity of the specific offences is considered by using the Crime Severity Index weight. Finally, charges which specify a type of drug take precedent over drug-related charges which do not specify a drug type (i.e., precursors or equipment).

In 2011/2012, ICCS coverage reflects all cases completed in adult Canadian criminal courts with the exception of superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec. Information could not be extracted from these electronic reporting systems and was therefore unavailable.

The absence of data from superior courts in these five jurisdictions may have resulted in an underestimation of the severity of sentences since some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sentences, are processed in superior courts. There may also be an underestimation of case elapsed times as more serious cases generally require more court appearances and take more time to complete.

Cases are counted according to the fiscal year in which they are completed. Each year, the ICCS database is "frozen" at the end of March for the production of court statistics pertaining to the preceding fiscal year. However, these counts do not include cases that were pending an outcome at the end of the reference period. If a pending outcome is reached in the next fiscal year, then these cases are included in the completed case counts for that fiscal year. However, if a one-year period of inactivity elapses, then these cases are deemed complete and the originally published counts for the previous fiscal year are subsequently updated and reported in the next year's release of the data. For example, upon the release of 2011/2012 data, the 2010/2011 data are updated with revisions for cases that were originally pending an outcome in 2010/2011 but have since been deemed complete due to a one-year period of inactivity. Data are revised once and are then permanently "frozen". Historically, updates to a previous year's numbers have resulted in an increase of about 2%.

Lastly, there are many factors that influence variations between jurisdictions. These may include Crown and police charging practices, the number, types and severity of offences, and various forms of diversion programs. In particular, trends in drug-related offences are subject to police resources, priorities, and enforcement. Therefore, any comparisons between jurisdictions should be interpreted with caution.

Methodology

As part of the analysis of drug-related crime in Canada, a deterministic record linkage was performed by Statistics Canada, linking police-reported incidents from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR 2, 2007-2012) with their related court charges from the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012). The scope of the linkage included all completed court cases in adult criminal and youth courts in Canada with at least one charge which was related to a drug offence.

The record linkage project paired in-scope completed court cases with a corresponding police-reported incident, based on a specific set of variables, including province, accused soundex (an algorithm that encodes names for confidentiality reasons), date of birth of the accused, sex of the accused, and the date of the offence.

For court charges which linked to a police-reported incident involving two or more drug types, the most serious drug type was imputed based on seriousness as determined by average sentences based on the Crime Severity Index weights, according to the following order: heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, other Controlled Drugs and Substances, ecstasy, cannabis.

The final linkage rate, after removing duplicate records and potentially false or bad links, was 80.4%. There was no bias in the linkage rate for guilty or non-guilty cases. Linkage rates for all years were close to 80%, with the earliest years having slightly lower rates.

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Notes

1. Includes all other controlled drugs and substances not listed, for example, barbiturates, LSD, and "date rape" drugs.

2. Includes all police-reported *Criminal Code* violations, *Criminal Code* traffic violations, *Controlled Drug and Substance Act* violations, and all other violations of federal statutes (i.e., the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, the *Firearms Act*).

3. In May 1997, the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (*CDSA*) was enacted, replacing the former *Narcotics Control Act* and parts of the *Food and Drugs Act*.

4. Information on police-reported incidents is based on the most serious violation. See text box 2 for analysis based on all incidents where there was a police-reported *CDSA* violation and it was not the most serious violation. Police services can report up to four violations on the UCR Survey for each incident; however, this has typically only been the practice since the late 1980s and not for all police services. To ensure comparability of data across jurisdictions and over time, only the most serious violation is used. Information on all violations in an incident is available upon request.

5. The police-reported crime rate includes all *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic) reported by police.

6. In April 2008, the UCR Survey began counting violations involving methamphetamines (crystal meth) and methylenedioxyamphetamine (ecstasy) under their own unique violation codes. Prior to this, violations involving crystal meth and ecstasy were counted within the category of "other drugs".

7. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

8. Includes level 3 (aggravated) assault, level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) assault, level 1 (common) assault, assault against a police officer, and all other assaults. Of assaults with an associated drug-related offence, half (50%) were level 1 assault.

9. For example, unlawful possession or possession contrary to order, unsafe storage, or improper documentation.

10. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.

11. Excludes superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

12. The unit of analysis in this section is completed adult criminal and youth court cases, where there was at least one charge for a drug offence, and where the information provided by the courts could be linked to data provided to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. For clarity and readability, the unit of analysis will be referred to as completed drug-related cases. It is important to note that analysis of UCR data is based on incidents where a drug violation was the most serious violation in the incident, while analysis of ICCS linked data is based on cases where at least one charge was related to drugs, regardless of whether it was the most serious violation.

13. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

14. Quebec adult criminal courts are excluded due to the unavailability of data.

15. Includes completed cases where the accused person was found guilty (including guilty pleas), or was convicted of a lesser or included offence.

16. Includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible and waived out of province or territory. Also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases that raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.

17. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. Manitoba does not report information on length of custody. Sentence lengths reported to the ICCS exclude time spent in custody prior to sentencing and/or the amount of credit awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Police-reported *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (*CDSA*) violations, by type of substance, Canada, 2012 and 2013

Violation	2012 number	2012 rate	2013 number	2013 rate	percent change in rate 2012 to 2013	percent change in rate 2003 to 2013
Cannabis violations						
Possession	57,895	167	58,965	168	0.7	28.5
Trafficking	9,773	28	9,110	26	-7.9	-22.1
Import/export	446	1	406	1	-10.0	-45.5
Production	5,480	16	4,792	14	-13.6	-49.9
Total cannabis violations	**73,594**	**212**	**73,273**	**208**	**-1.6**	**7.9**
Cocaine violations						
Possession	7,885	23	7,696	22	-3.5	7.6
Trafficking	10,358	30	9,480	27	-9.5	15.3
Import/export	301	1	257	1	-15.6	-40.5
Production[1]	9	0	12	0	31.8	-24.4
Total cocaine violations	**18,553**	**53**	**17,445**	**50**	**-7.1**	**10.4**
Heroin violations						
Possession	779	2	915	3	16.1	142.9
Trafficking	589	2	569	2	-4.5	105.6
Import/export	75	0	57	0	-24.9	-25.7
Production[1]	0	0	0	0	...	-100.0
Total heroin violations	**1,443**	**4**	**1,541**	**4**	**5.6**	**111.1**
Methamphetamine (crystal meth) violations[2]						
Possession	2,613	8	3,345	10	26.5	544.2
Trafficking	1,046	3	1,187	3	12.2	690.4
Import/export	12	0	32	0	163.6	332.3
Production[1]	62	0	57	0	-9.1	183.7
Total methamphetamines violations	**3,733**	**11**	**4,621**	**13**	**22.4**	**563.1**
Methylenedioxyamphetamine (ecstasy) violations[2]						
Possession	348	1	281	1	-20.2	-1.2
Trafficking	163	0	136	0	-17.5	-0.3
Import/export	9	0	17	0	86.7	100.9
Production[1]	6	0	8	0	31.8	-24.4
Total methylenedioxyamphetamine violations	**526**	**2**	**442**	**1**	**-16.9**	**0.5**
Other *CDSA* substances[3]						
Possession	6,821	20	6,542	19	-5.2	13.0
Trafficking	4,609	13	4,391	12	-5.8	28.9
Import/export	642	2	627	2	-3.5	-77.9
Production[1]	142	0	139	0	-3.2	205.7
Total other *CDSA* substance violations	**12,214**	**35**	**11,699**	**33**	**-5.3**	**-2.7**
Precursor or equipment[4]	30	0	36	0	18.6	...
Total drug violations						
Possession	76,341	220	77,744	221	0.7	31.3
Trafficking	26,538	76	24,873	71	-7.4	5.4
Import/export	1,485	4	1,396	4	-7.1	-65.8
Production[1]	5,699	16	5,008	14	-13.1	-47.6
Precursor or equipment[4]	30	0	36	0	18.6	...
Total	**110,093**	**317**	**109,057**	**310**	**-2.1**	**13.1**

... not applicable

1. Offences specific to the production of this drug were added to the UCR Survey in 2008. As a result, percent changes are calculated from 2008 to 2013.

2. Prior to 2008, violations involving these substances were included in the category of Other *CDSA* substances. As a result, percent change in rate is calculated from 2008 to 2013.

3. Includes all other controlled drugs and substances not listed, for example, barbiturates, LSD, and "date rape" drugs.

4. In 2011, the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* was amended to make it illegal for anyone to possess, produce, sell or import anything knowing it will be used to produce or traffic in crystal meth or ecstasy. The UCR introduced a new violation code to collect this information.

Note: Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with minor offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some minor offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations. Data for specific types of crime are available, in most cases, from 1977. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2
Police-reported *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (*CDSA*) violations, by type of substance, by province and territory, 2013

Province or territory	Type of substance										percent change in rate 2012 to 2013
	Cannabis		Cocaine		Methamphetamines		Other *CDSA*[1]		Total		
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	
Newfoundland and Labrador	969	184	159	30	1	0	307	58	1,436	273	0.4
Prince Edward Island	116	80	33	23	2	1	115	79	266	183	-25.5
Nova Scotia	2,224	236	350	37	6	1	479	51	3,059	325	-3.9
New Brunswick	1,213	160	211	28	65	9	291	38	1,780	235	-7.4
Quebec	15,766	193	2,121	26	1,812	22	2,876	35	22,575	277	1.6
Ontario	20,899	154	4,767	35	742	5	5,026	37	31,434	232	-5.9
Manitoba	2,217	175	959	76	22	2	406	32	3,604	285	4.9
Saskatchewan	3,242	293	1,510	136	104	9	570	51	5,426	490	-13.3
Alberta	7,507	187	2,878	72	604	15	961	24	11,950	297	-2.9
British Columbia	18,248	398	4,241	93	1,263	28	2,633	57	26,385	576	2.8
Yukon	111	302	77	210	0	0	19	52	207	564	8.2
Northwest Territories	405	930	133	305	0	0	23	53	561	1,289	-5.1
Nunavut	356	1,000	6	17	0	0	12	34	374	1,051	-11.1
Canada	**73,273**	**208**	**17,445**	**50**	**4,621**	**13**	**13,718**	**39**	**109,057**	**310**	**-2.1**

1. Includes heroin, ecstasy, and other controlled drugs and substances, as well as precursors and equipment.
Note: Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with minor offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some minor offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations. Data for specific types of crime are available, in most cases, from 1977. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3
Police-reported *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (*CDSA*) violations, by type of substance, by census metropolitan area, 2013

Census metropolitan area[1, 2,3]	Type of substance									
	Cannabis		Cocaine		Methamphetamines		Other *CDSA*[4]		Total	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Kelowna	1,043	563	355	192	77	42	164	89	1,639	885
Vancouver	7,392	302	2,077	85	631	26	1,240	51	11,340	464
Gatineau[5]	988	306	126	39	203	63	160	50	1,477	457
Regina	492	210	397	169	19	8	125	53	1,033	441
Abbotsford-Mission	422	238	134	76	65	37	120	68	741	418
Victoria	999	280	279	78	71	20	140	39	1,489	417
Sherbrooke	554	285	50	26	27	14	129	66	760	390
Trois-Rivières	377	244	51	33	85	55	35	23	548	355
Greater Sudbury	264	160	143	87	1	1	148	90	556	337
Brantford	300	211	87	61	5	4	70	49	462	325
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	1,205	225	179	33	42	8	266	50	1,692	316
Halifax	977	239	182	45	3	1	106	26	1,268	310
Hamilton	1,474	201	326	44	10	1	249	34	2,059	280
London	751	150	172	34	110	22	317	63	1,350	269
Guelph	271	211	28	22	15	12	22	17	336	261
Edmonton	1,964	152	783	61	333	26	292	23	3,372	261
St. John's	289	143	52	26	0	0	178	88	519	256
Barrie	303	146	114	55	2	1	106	51	525	252
Saskatoon	506	169	126	42	41	14	80	27	753	252
Saint John	247	169	62	42	0	0	58	40	367	251
Moncton	253	176	45	31	12	8	42	29	352	245
Québec	1,145	146	139	18	106	13	382	49	1,772	225
Saguenay	243	145	32	19	60	36	33	20	368	219
Montréal	5,830	146	961	24	315	8	1,566	39	8,672	218
Toronto	7,639	129	2,119	36	137	2	1,422	24	11,317	192
Windsor	382	116	89	27	10	3	129	39	610	185
Ottawa[6]	1,234	127	375	38	6	1	177	18	1,792	184
Peterborough	157	129	30	25	1	1	25	21	213	175
St.Catharines-Niagara	532	119	145	33	16	4	84	19	777	174
Kingston	135	82	54	33	34	21	55	34	278	170
Winnipeg	574	72	379	47	6	1	193	24	1,152	144
Calgary	1,110	81	519	38	47	3	100	7	1,776	129
Thunder Bay	86	71	43	35	0	0	27	22	156	128
CMA total	**40,138**	**166**	**10,653**	**44**	**2,490**	**10**	**8,240**	**34**	**61,521**	**255**
Non-CMA total	33,135	301	6,792	62	2,131	19	5,478	50	47,536	432
Canada	**73,273**	**208**	**17,445**	**50**	**4,621**	**13**	**13,718**	**39**	**109,057**	**310**

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.
4. Includes heroin, ecstasy, and other controlled drugs and substances, as well as precursors and equipment.
5. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
6. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Note: Police-reported statistics may be affected by differences in the way police services deal with minor offences. In some instances, police or municipalities might choose to deal with some minor offences using municipal by-laws or provincial provisions rather than *Criminal Code* provisions. Counts are based on the most serious violation in the incident. One incident may involve multiple violations. Data for specific types of crime by census metropolitan area are available from 1991. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Percentage changes are based on unrounded rates. Populations are based on July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4
Charges and cases completed in adult criminal and youth court, by type of drug, Canada, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012

	Adult criminal court				Youth court			
	Charges[2]		Cases[3]		Charges[2]		Cases[3]	
Type of drug[1]	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Cannabis	101,261	44.6	74,806	54.5	20,303	69.6	16,722	77.0
Other drugs	125,745	55.4	62,376	45.5	8,871	30.4	5,006	23.0
Cocaine	77,927	34.3	39,979	29.1	3,705	12.7	1,994	9.2
Heroin	6,239	2.7	2,372	1.7	162	0.6	54	0.2
Methamphetamines	5,368	2.4	2,590	1.9	654	2.2	351	1.6
Ecstasy	2,662	1.2	1,360	1.0	638	2.2	398	1.8
Other *CDSA*[4]	33,549	14.8	16,075	11.7	3,712	12.7	2,209	10.2
Total	**227,006**	**100.0**	**137,182**	**100.0**	**29,174**	**100.0**	**21,728**	**100.0**

1. If there are multiple drug-related charges, type of drug is determined by 1) the drug charge with the most serious decision, then 2) if there are multiple charges with the same decision, the charge related to the most serious violation, determined using the Crime Severity Index.
2. A charge refers to a formal accusation against an accused person or company involving a federal statute offence that has been processed by the courts and received a final decision.
3. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.
4. Includes all other controlled drugs and substances. Includes precursors and equipment.

Note: Charges and cases in this table represent a subset of completed adult criminal and youth court cases from 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. This subset includes all completed cases over this period where at least one charge was drug related and where the case was linked to police records. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey linked database, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012.

Table 5
Cases completed in adult criminal and youth courts, by type of offence and type of drug, Canada, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012

	Adult criminal		Youth	
Type of drug violation	number	percent	number	percent
Completed cannabis-related cases				
Possession	58,938	79	13,972	84
Trafficking	10,470	14	2,591	15
Import/export	29	0	2	0
Production	5,369	7	157	1
Total completed cannabis-related cases	**74,806**	**100**	**16,722**	**100**
Completed cocaine-related cases				
Possession	20,954	52	854	43
Trafficking	18,595	47	1,131	57
Import/export	183	0	2	0
Production	247	1	7	0
Total completed cocaine-related cases	**39,979**	**100**	**1,994**	**100**
Completed heroin-related cases				
Possession	1,103	47	25	46
Trafficking	1,216	51	27	50
Import/export	28	1	1	2
Production	25	1	1	2
Total completed heroin-related cases	**2,372**	**100**	**54**	**100**
Completed methamphetamine-related (crystal meth) cases				
Possession	1,879	73	229	65
Trafficking	662	26	122	35
Import/export	13	1	0	0
Production	36	1	0	0
Total completed crystal meth-related cases	**2,590**	**100**	**351**	**100**
Completed methylenedioxyamphetamine-related (ecstasy) cases				
Possession	864	64	276	69
Trafficking	483	36	122	31
Import/export	3	0	0	0
Production	10	1	0	0
Total completed ecstasy-related cases	**1,360**	**100**	**398**	**100**
Completed cases related to other *CDSA* substances				
Possession	10,347	64	1,469	67
Trafficking	5,191	32	721	33
Import/export	149	1	1	0
Production	388	2	18	1
Total completed cases related to other *CDSA* substances	**16,075**	**100**	**2,209**	**100**
Completed drug-related cases				
Possession	94,085	69	16,825	77
Trafficking	36,617	27	4,714	22
Import/export	405	0	6	0
Production	6,075	4	183	1
Total completed drug-related cases	**137,182**	**100**	**21,728**	**100**

Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases in this table represent a subset of completed adult criminal and youth court cases from 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. This subset includes all completed cases over this period where at least one charge was drug related and where the case was linked to police records.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey linked database, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012.

Table 6
Completed drug-related cases in adult criminal and youth courts, by number of charges and type of drug, Canada, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012

	Single charge[2]		Multiple charge[3]		Total	
Type of drug[1]	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Adult criminal court[4]						
Cannabis	35,884	48.0	38,922	52.0	74,806	100.0
Other drugs	14,064	22.5	48,312	77.5	62,376	100.0
Cocaine	9,500	23.8	30,479	76.2	39,979	100.0
Heroin	379	16.0	1,993	84.0	2,372	100.0
Methamphetamines	429	16.6	2,161	83.4	2,590	100.0
Ecstasy	324	23.8	1,036	76.2	1,360	100.0
Other *CDSA*[5]	3,432	21.3	12,643	78.7	16,075	100.0
Total completed cases	**49,948**	**36.4**	**87,234**	**63.6**	**137,182**	**100.0**
Youth court						
Cannabis	7,956	47.6	8,766	52.4	16,722	100.0
Other drugs	1,174	23.5	3,832	76.5	5,006	100.0
Cocaine	307	15.4	1,687	84.6	1,994	100.0
Heroin	8	14.8	46	85.2	54	100.0
Methamphetamines	78	22.2	273	77.8	351	100.0
Ecstasy	124	31.2	274	68.8	398	100.0
Other *CDSA*[5]	657	29.7	1,552	70.3	2,209	100.0
Total completed cases	**9,130**	**42.0**	**12,598**	**58.0**	**21,728**	**100.0**

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious drug-related offence.
2. Refers to all cases where the drug charge was the sole charge in the case.
3. Refers to all cases with more than one charge. The most serious drug-related charge is not necessarily the most serious charge in the case.
4. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.
5. Includes all other controlled drugs and substances. Includes precursors and equipment.

Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases in this table represent a subset of completed adult criminal and youth court cases from 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. This subset includes all completed cases over this period where at least one charge was drug related and where the case was linked to police records.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey linked database, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012.

Table 7
Completed cases in adult criminal and youth courts, where at least one charge is drug-related, by province or territory, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012

Province or territory	Type of drug[1]								Total	
	Cannabis		Cocaine		Methamphetamines		Other *CDSA*[2]			
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Adult criminal court[3]										
Newfoundland and Labrador	778	68.9	189	16.7	3	0.3	159	14.1	1,129	100.0
Prince Edward Island	163	62.2	39	14.9	7	2.7	53	20.2	262	100.0
Nova Scotia	2,937	65.5	747	16.7	63	1.4	736	16.4	4,483	100.0
New Brunswick	1,507	60.7	472	19.0	76	3.1	427	17.2	2,482	100.0
Quebec	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ontario	45,123	56.3	22,001	27.4	790	1.0	12,299	15.3	80,213	100.0
Manitoba	2,662	52.4	1,922	37.8	6	0.1	494	9.7	5,084	100.0
Saskatchewan	4,644	65.8	1,338	19.0	118	1.7	954	13.5	7,054	100.0
Alberta	11,474	54.9	6,563	31.4	745	3.6	2,104	10.1	20,886	100.0
British Columbia	4,679	32.2	6,538	45.0	781	5.4	2,539	17.5	14,537	100.0
Yukon	197	59.9	113	34.3	0	0.0	19	5.8	329	100.0
Northwest Territories	249	78.8	51	16.1	0	0.0	16	5.1	316	100.0
Nunavut	393	96.6	6	1.5	1	0.2	7	1.7	407	100.0
Total completed adult cases	**74,806**	**54.5**	**39,979**	**29.1**	**2,590**	**1.9**	**19,807**	**14.4**	**137,182**	**100.0**
Youth court										
Newfoundland and Labrador	79	80.6	5	5.1	0	0.0	14	14.3	98	100.0
Prince Edward Island	30	73.2	2	4.9	0	0.0	9	22.0	41	100.0
Nova Scotia	279	75.4	38	10.3	4	1.1	49	13.2	370	100.0
New Brunswick	252	76.1	13	3.9	7	2.1	59	17.8	331	100.0
Quebec	3,699	71.6	133	2.6	287	5.6	1,048	20.3	5,167	100.0
Ontario	8,383	82.1	931	9.1	20	0.2	878	8.6	10,212	100.0
Manitoba	554	61.1	275	30.3	2	0.2	76	8.4	907	100.0
Saskatchewan	1,056	83.7	81	6.4	4	0.3	121	9.6	1,262	100.0
Alberta	1,942	76.9	312	12.4	18	0.7	252	10.0	2,524	100.0
British Columbia	378	51.6	197	26.9	9	1.2	148	20.2	732	100.0
Yukon	31	86.1	1	2.8	0	0.0	4	11.1	36	100.0
Northwest Territories	25	75.8	6	18.2	0	0.0	2	6.1	33	100.0
Nunavut	14	93.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	6.7	15	100.0
Total completed youth cases	**16,722**	**77.0**	**1,994**	**9.2**	**351**	**1.6**	**2,661**	**12.2**	**21,728**	**100.0**

... not applicable
1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious drug-related offence.
2. Includes heroin, ecstasy, and all other controlled drugs and substances. Includes precursors and equipment.
3. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.
Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases in this table represent a subset of completed adult criminal and youth court cases from 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. This subset includes all completed cases over this period where at least one charge was drug related and where the case was linked to police records.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey linked database, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012.

Table 8
Completed drug-related cases in adult criminal court, by decision, type of offence, and type of drug, Canada, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012

Type of offence and type of drug[1]	Guilty[2]		Stayed/withdrawn[3]		Acquitted		Other[4]		Total[5]	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Completed cases related to drug possession										
Cannabis	25,219	43	33,369	57	92	0	258	0	58,938	100
Other drugs	22,740	65	12,158	35	129	0	120	0	35,147	100
Cocaine	13,870	66	6,933	33	88	0	63	0	20,954	100
Heroin	743	67	355	32	4	0	1	0	1,103	100
Methamphetamines	1,223	65	641	34	7	0	8	0	1,879	100
Ecstasy	510	59	345	40	1	0	8	1	864	100
Other *CDSA*[6]	6,394	62	3,884	38	29	0	40	0	10,347	100
Total completed cases related to drug possession	**47,959**	**51**	**45,527**	**48**	**221**	**0**	**378**	**0**	**94,085**	**100**
Completed cases related to drug supply[7]										
Cannabis	7,752	49	7,883	50	148	1	85	1	15,868	100
Other drugs	15,248	56	11,600	43	270	1	111	0	27,229	100
Cocaine	10,968	58	7,774	41	206	1	77	0	19,025	100
Heroin	740	58	504	40	22	2	3	0	1,269	100
Methamphetamines	371	52	329	46	5	1	6	1	711	100
Ecstasy	256	52	230	46	4	1	6	1	496	100
Other *CDSA*[6]	2,913	51	2,763	48	33	1	19	0	5,728	100
Total completed cases related to drug supply	**23,000**	**53**	**19,483**	**45**	**418**	**1**	**196**	**0**	**43,097**	**100**
Completed drug-related cases										
Cannabis	32,971	44	41,252	55	240	0	343	0	74,806	100
Other drugs	37,988	61	23,758	38	399	1	231	0	62,376	100
Cocaine	24,838	62	14,707	37	294	1	140	0	39,979	100
Heroin	1,483	63	859	36	26	1	4	0	2,372	100
Methamphetamines	1,594	62	970	37	12	0	14	1	2,590	100
Ecstasy	766	56	575	42	5	0	14	1	1,360	100
Other *CDSA*[6]	9,307	58	6,647	41	62	0	59	0	16,075	100
Total completed drug-related cases	**70,959**	**52**	**65,010**	**47**	**639**	**0**	**574**	**0**	**137,182**	**100**

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious drug-related offence.
2. Guilty findings include guilty of the offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. Also includes cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed.
3. Includes stays, withdrawals, dismissals and discharges at preliminary inquiry as well as court referrals to alternative or extrajudicial measures and restorative justice programs.
4. Includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible and waived out of province or territory. Also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases that raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.
5. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.
6. Includes all other controlled drugs and substances. Includes precursors and equipment.
7. Cases related to drug supply include trafficking, import, export, and production of controlled drugs and substances.

Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases in this table represent a subset of completed adult criminal and youth court cases from 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. This subset includes all completed cases over this period where at least one charge was drug related and where the case was linked to police records.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey linked database, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012.

Table 9
Completed drug-related cases in youth court, by decision, type of offence, and type of drug, Canada, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012

Type of offence and type of drug[1]	Guilty[2]		Stayed/withdrawn[3]		Acquitted		Other[4]		Total[5]	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Completed cases related to drug possession										
Cannabis	5,909	42	7,971	57	58	0	34	0	13,972	100
Other drugs	1,714	60	1,107	39	26	1	6	0	2,853	100
Cocaine	529	62	320	37	3	0	2	0	854	100
Heroin	14	56	10	40	1	4	0	0	25	100
Methamphetamines	158	69	67	29	3	1	1	0	229	100
Ecstasy	161	58	108	39	6	2	1	0	276	100
Other *CDSA*[6]	852	58	602	41	13	1	2	0	1,469	100
Total completed cases related to drug possession	**7,623**	**45**	**9,078**	**54**	**84**	**0**	**40**	**0**	**16,825**	**100**
Completed cases related to drug supply[7]										
Cannabis	1,402	51	1,276	46	67	2	5	0	2,750	100
Other drugs	1,324	61	776	36	49	2	4	0	2,153	100
Cocaine	652	57	470	41	17	1	1	0	1,140	100
Heroin	16	55	11	38	2	7	0	0	29	100
Methamphetamines	99	81	18	15	5	4	0	0	122	100
Ecstasy	76	62	42	34	4	3	0	0	122	100
Other *CDSA*[6]	481	65	235	32	21	3	3	0	740	100
Total completed cases related to drug supply	**2,726**	**56**	**2,052**	**42**	**116**	**2**	**9**	**0**	**4,903**	**100**
Completed drug-related cases										
Cannabis	7,311	44	9,247	55	125	1	39	0	16,722	100
Other drugs	3,038	61	1,883	38	75	1	10	0	5,006	100
Cocaine	1,181	59	790	40	20	1	3	0	1,994	100
Heroin	30	56	21	39	3	6	0	0	54	100
Methamphetamines	257	73	85	24	8	2	1	0	351	100
Ecstasy	237	60	150	38	10	3	1	0	398	100
Other *CDSA*[6]	1,333	60	837	38	34	2	5	0	2,209	100
Total completed drug-related cases	**10,349**	**48**	**11,130**	**51**	**200**	**1**	**49**	**0**	**21,728**	**100**

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious drug-related offence.
2. Guilty findings include guilty of the offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. Also includes cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed.
3. Includes stays, withdrawals, dismissals and discharges at preliminary inquiry as well as court referrals to alternative or extrajudicial measures and restorative justice programs.
4. Includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible and waived out of province or territory. Also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases that raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.
5. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.
6. Includes all other controlled drugs and substances. Includes precursors and equipment.
7. Cases related to drug supply include trafficking, import, export, and production of controlled drugs and substances.

Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases in this table represent a subset of completed adult criminal and youth court cases from 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. This subset includes all completed cases over this period where at least one charge was drug related and where the case was linked to police records.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey linked database, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012.

Table 10
Completed drug-related cases with a decision of guilt in adult criminal court, by selected type of sentence, type of offence, and type of drug, Canada, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012

	Type of offence								
	Possession			Supply[2]			Total		
Type of sentence[1]	number of cases	percent of guilty cases	median[3]	number of cases	percent of guilty cases	median[3]	number of cases	percent of guilty cases	median[3]
Guilty cases sentenced to custody									
Cannabis	3,969	16	10	2,085	27	90	6,054	18	30
Other drugs	8,129	36	15	8,462	55	180	16,591	44	45
Cocaine	5,126	37	14	6,435	59	180	11,561	47	60
Heroin	374	50	8	406	55	180	780	53	47
Methamphetamines	602	49	15	240	65	365	842	53	30
Ecstasy	110	22	14	90	35	180	200	26	30
Other *CDSA*[4]	1,917	30	20	1,291	44	90	3,208	34	30
Total drug-related cases sentenced to custody	**12,098**	**25**	**14**	**10,547**	**46**	**150**	**22,645**	**32**	**30**
Guilty cases sentenced to fine									
Cannabis	13,051	52	250	1,216	16	1,000	14,267	43	300
Other drugs	7,617	33	400	566	4	750	8,183	22	400
Cocaine	4,731	34	450	303	3	700	5,034	20	500
Heroin	105	14	400	9	1	775	114	8	400
Methamphetamines	312	26	400	10	3	500	322	20	400
Ecstasy	232	45	300	12	5	1,000	244	32	350
Other *CDSA*[4]	2,237	35	300	232	8	750	2,469	27	300
Total drug-related cases sentenced to fine	**20,668**	**43**	**300**	**1,782**	**8**	**1,000**	**22,450**	**32**	**300**
Guilty cases sentenced to probation									
Cannabis	7,589	30	365	2,751	35	365	10,340	31	365
Other drugs	8,659	38	365	4,389	29	365	13,048	34	365
Cocaine	5,101	37	365	2,974	27	365	8,075	33	365
Heroin	321	43	365	162	22	365	483	33	365
Methamphetamines	422	35	365	82	22	365	504	32	365
Ecstasy	175	34	360	79	31	365	254	33	365
Other *CDSA*[4]	2,640	41	365	1,092	37	365	3,732	40	365
Total drug-related cases sentenced to probation	**16,248**	**34**	**365**	**7,140**	**31**	**365**	**23,388**	**33**	**365**

1. Cases may involve more than one type of sentence and/or other sentences not shown, therefore, percentages do not total 100%.
2. Cases related to drug supply include trafficking, import, export, and production of controlled drugs and substances.
3. For guilty cases with a sentence of custody, represents the median length (in days) of sentenced custody. Custodial sentence lengths exclude time spent in custody prior to sentencing and/or the amount of credit awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody. Also excludes cases in which the length of the custody sentence was unknown or indeterminate. For guilty cases with a sentence of fine, represents the median amount of fine (in dollars). Excludes cases where the amount of fine was unknown. For guilty cases with a sentence of probation, represents the median length (in days) of probation. Length of probation excludes cases in which the length of the probation sentence was unknown or greater than three years. The median represents the midpoint, where half of the values are above and half are below.
4. Includes all other controlled drugs and substances. Includes precursors and equipment.

Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases in this table represent a subset of completed adult criminal and youth court cases from 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. This subset includes all completed cases over this period where at least one charge was drug related and where the case was linked to police records.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey linked database, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012.

Table 11
Completed drug-related cases with a decision of guilt in youth court, by selected type of sentence, type of offence, and type of drug, Canada, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012

	Type of offence								
	Possession			Supply[2]			Total		
Type of sentence[1]	number of cases	percent of guilty cases	median[3]	number of cases	percent of guilty cases	median[3]	number of cases	percent of guilty cases	median[3]
Guilty cases sentenced to custody									
Cannabis	505	9	31	80	6	48	585	8	36
Other drugs	195	11	40	182	14	90	377	12	60
Cocaine	73	14	30	112	17	75	185	16	60
Heroin	3	21	33	2	13	267	5	17	57
Methamphetamines	12	8	40	8	8	100	20	8	62
Ecstasy	13	8	28	3	4	120	16	7	45
Other *CDSA*[4]	94	11	60	57	12	120	151	11	78
Total drug-related cases sentenced to custody	**700**	**9**	**35**	**262**	**10**	**76**	**962**	**9**	**44**
Guilty cases sentenced to fine									
Cannabis	537	9	150	31	2	275	568	8	150
Other drugs	111	6	200	11	1	200	122	4	200
Cocaine	32	6	298	6	1	185	38	3	255
Heroin	1	7	x	0	0	...	1	3	x
Methamphetamines	10	6	200	0	0	...	10	4	200
Ecstasy	11	7	255	1	1	x	12	5	253
Other *CDSA*[4]	57	7	150	4	1	175	61	5	150
Total drug-related cases sentenced to fine	**648**	**9**	**150**	**42**	**2**	**250**	**690**	**7**	**170**
Guilty cases sentenced to probation									
Cannabis	3,422	58	360	1,060	76	365	4,482	61	360
Other drugs	1,076	63	360	1,006	76	365	2,082	69	365
Cocaine	341	64	365	495	76	365	836	71	365
Heroin	8	57	500	11	69	360	19	63	363
Methamphetamines	112	71	270	72	73	240	184	72	270
Ecstasy	94	58	270	59	78	360	153	65	360
Other *CDSA*[4]	521	61	360	369	77	360	890	67	360
Total drug-related cases sentenced to probation	**4,498**	**59**	**360**	**2,066**	**76**	**365**	**6,564**	**63**	**365**

... not applicable
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
1. Cases may involve more than one type of sentence and/or other sentences not shown, therefore, percentages do not total 100%.
2. Cases related to drug supply include trafficking, import, export, and production of controlled drugs and substances.
3. For guilty cases with a sentence of custody, represents the median length (in days) of sentenced custody. Custodial sentence lengths exclude time spent in custody prior to sentencing and/or the amount of credit awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody. Also excludes cases in which the length of the custody sentence was unknown or indeterminate. For guilty cases with a sentence of fine, represents the median amount of fine (in dollars). Excludes cases where the amount of fine was unknown. For guilty cases with a sentence of probation, represents the median length (in days) of probation. Length of probation excludes cases in which the length of the probation sentence was unknown or greater than two years. The median represents the midpoint, where half of the values are above and half are below.
4. Includes all other controlled drugs and substances. Includes precursors and equipment.
Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases in this table represent a subset of completed adult criminal and youth court cases from 2008/2009 to 2011/2012. This subset includes all completed cases over this period where at least one charge was drug related and where the case was linked to police records.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting Survey linked database, 2008/2009 to 2011/2012.